# City of Boston

IN

# CITY COUNCIL

## COUNCILLORS CHARLES C. YANCEY, CHUCK TURNER & SAM YOON

## HAITIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS: Haitians and Haitian Americans in the Greater Boston area have been celebrating the month of May as Haitian-American Heritage Month since 1998; and

WHEREAS: May has historical and cultural traditions that are honored and remembered by Haitians around the world, especially the Haitian Revolution, which was the forerunner of modern anti-colonial movements throughout the Third World; and

WHEREAS: General Toussaint Louverture, one of the leaders of the Haitian Revolution, was born on May 20, 1743. Louverture was compared by some to George Washington and later to Napolean Bonaparte; and

WHEREAS: May is also the month in which an historic pact signed by Black and Mulatto officers occurred, leading to the creation of the Haitian Flag on May 18, 1803, as well as Haiti's independence on January 1st, 1804, when Haiti become the first Black independent country in the world; and

WHEREAS: May 1st in Haiti is also celebrated as Labor and Agricultural Day, a day when workers, peasants and artisans celebrate together; and

WHEREAS: Haitians honor their mothers on the last Sunday in May by wearing red flowers if their mothers are still alive and white or purple flowers if their mothers have died; and

WHEREAS: Many religious celebrations in Haiti occur during the month of May, known by Haitian Catholics as the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus; and

WHEREAS: The Annual Haitian American Unity Parade in Boston and the Annual Haitian Flag Raising on Boston City Hall Plaza are both held in May, featuring Haitian leaders, state and city officials, marching bands and many other organizations; Be It Therefore

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, proclaims May as Haitian-American Heritage Month in the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: April 29, 2009

X-4600