

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO DESIGNATE OPA LOCKA AS THE SITE FOR THE NEW FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY.

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2023, Governor DeSantis signed CS/HB 1441 into law, which created a task force to provide the Florida Legislature and the Governor recommendations for the planning, construction, operation, and administration of a new Florida Museum of Black History; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force held ten meetings between 2023-2024 where they heard from the public, as well as professionals and scholars, as to how, why, and where the museum should be implemented; and

WHEREAS, Opa Locka was the only municipality in South Florida that applied to be the location for the Florida Museum of Black History; and

WHEREAS, On June 28, 2024, the task force forwarded their final report to the Florida Legislature which listed Opa Locka in their top three most desired locations for the museum; and

WHEREAS, Opa Locka is an ideal site for a Florida Museum of Black History due to its pioneering Black American history including being the first city in northern Dade County to integrate in the 1960s, and the expressed desire of the City of Opa Locka to preserve and display black history in neighboring municipalities, including the black history of Coral Gables. In 1972, Opa Locka elected its first black city commissioner, Albert Tresvant, who was thereafter elected in 1975 to serve as Opa Locka's first black Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed location of 151 Perviz Avenue is an ideal location for the museum as it sits in central south Florida and would allow for the repurposing of a state-managed property; and

WHEREAS, establishing the museum in Opa Locka would not only honor Florida's Black History, but also serve as an educational resource for future generations; and

WHEREAS, designating Opa Locka as the site for the museum would enhance tourism and economic development in South Florida, while promoting cultural awareness and community pride.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission urges the Florida Legislature to designate Opa Locka as the site for the new Florida Museum of Black History.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.