

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CORAL GABLES CITY COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY/U.S. ROUTE 1/STATE ROAD 5, FROM THE MIAMI-DADE/MONROE COUNTY LINE TO STATE ROAD 9A/INTERSTATE 95 NORTHBOUND TO "HARRIET TUBMAN HIGHWAY"/U.S. ROUTE 1/STATE ROAD 5, INCLUDING THAT PORTION OF THE ROADWAY THAT LIES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CORAL GABLES, FROM SW 57TH AVENUE TO BOOKER STREET.

**WHEREAS**, the unconquerable American hero, Harriet Ross Tubman, was an abolitionist and political activist who dedicated her life to the universal plight for freedom for all; and

**WHEREAS**, born enslaved as Arminta "Minty" Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland around March of 1822, Ms. Tubman would go on to change both her name and caste as she unapologetically proclaimed her right to liberty by successfully escaping the bonds of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, for Ms. Tubman, freedom for oneself was insufficient when others remained in bondage; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Tubman exemplified the importance and reach of the "power of one" by risking her life to return to the horrors of bondage over 13 times during an 11-year period, in order to lead countless others to freedom in spirit and in truth; and

**WHEREAS**, known as the Moses of her people, Ms. Tubman helped to establish and mobilize the Underground Railroad, comprised of a network of abolitionists and safe houses that provided enslaved individuals with a passage to freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, for the Underground Railroad, Ms. Tubman was the "Conductor" who is said to have never "lost a passenger"; and

**WHEREAS**, her bravery extended beyond the perils of the Underground Railroad, as she was the first documented woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War, where she also served as a nurse, and intelligence operative for the Union Army; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Tubman also solidified her place on the frontlines of the Women's Suffrage Movement, where she boldly advocated for women's right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of her immeasurable contributions to the fabric of this nation, the City Commission would like to honor the memory, legacy, and tenacity of Ms.

Harriet Ross Tubman, who died on March 10, 1913, as well as take a staunch proactive stance on the necessary eradication of the lingering markers within Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida which continue to celebrate a painful history of systemic racism including Old Dixie Highway, West Dixie Highway, and South Dixie Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, under its present moniker, Dixie represents a troubling time in our nation's past, marred by the inhumane celebration and unconscionable profit of the perils of racism, segregation, and the atrocities of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, it is unquestionable that "Dixie's" toxic history runs deeply through the veins of this country, as its racist roots date back to the 19th century and the deplorable comedic movement of blackface minstrels and would become the rallying cry and unofficial anthem of the Confederacy during the Civil War as they fought to uphold an institution that enslaved and tortured countless African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, it is only fitting that Dixie's current nomenclature be replaced by the matchless legacy of a warrior whose heroic and selfless fight for freedom and justice has served the best interests of Miami-Dade County, the state of Florida, and the nation, and has undoubtedly provided a significant impact on the City of Coral Gables; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County adopted Resolution No. R-168-20 on February 19th 2020, designating the portions of Old Dixie Highway and West Dixie Highway that encompass Miami-Dade County roadways, urging the Florida Legislature to designate the portions of the roadway that are state-controlled, and urging municipalities, including the City of Coral Gables, to adopt similar resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, because portions of West Dixie Highway/State Road 909 and South Dixie Highway/U.S. Route 1/State Road 5 are state roads, the Florida Legislature would be required to rename those roads; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 334.071, Florida Statutes, provides that the erection of markers for state road designations shall be contingent upon the appropriate city or county commission passing a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation; and

**WHEREAS**, because South Dixie Highway is a state-controlled roadway within the City of Coral Gables, it is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to order and install the signs for newly designated roadways.

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

**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 hereby supports the renaming of South Dixie Highway/U.S. Route 1/State Road 5, from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line to State Road 9A/Interstate 95 Northbound to "Harriet Tubman Highway"/U.S. Route 1/State Road 5, including that portion of the roadway that lies within the city limits of Coral Gables, from SW 57th Avenue to Booker Street.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez and to the Florida Department of Transportation, District Six, Planning and Environmental Management Office.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall be effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2020.

APPROVED:

RAUL VALDES-FAULI  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL  
SUFFICIENCY:

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS  
CITY ATTORNEY