

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CORAL GABLES CITY COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION 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, the Mason-Dixon line which was drawn between 1763 and 1767 by a surveyor, Jeremiah Dixon, was drawn to define the border between Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, this line later became informally known as the boundary between the free northern states and the southern states that allowed slavery; and

WHEREAS, this usage especially came to prominence during the debate around the Missouri Compromise of 1820 that admitted Missouri as a slave state in exchange for legislation that prohibited slavery north of the 36 30 parallel except Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Dixie also represents 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, Dixie is still used today in the figurative sense of a line that separates the North and South politically and socially; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the 50's and 60's African Americans frequently spoke about "Dixie" as a relic of the Confederacy and a reminder of decades of white domination, segregation, and the exploitation of 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, renaming the portions of Old Dixie Highway and West Dixie Highway that encompass Miami-Dade County roadways, urging the Florida Legislature to rename 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, an act of the Florida Legislature is required to rename those roads; and

WHEREAS, state roads can also receive an honorary designation by following the process set forth in Section 334.071, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 334.071, Florida Statutes an honorary designation of a state road is contingent upon the appropriate city or county commission passing a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation, and for roads located in more than one city or county, resolutions supporting the designation must be passed by each affected local government; and

WHEREAS, nine out of ten of the municipalities affected by the County's resolution passed resolutions in support of the Harriet Tubman designation, including Florida City, the Town of Cutler Bay, the City of Miami, the City of South Miami, the City of North Miami, the Village of Pinecrest, the City of North Miami Beach, the Village of Palmetto Bay, and the City of Homestead;

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 designation 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 Daniella Levine Cava 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 TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2021.