

CITY OF AUBURN, NEW YORK
PROCLAMATION from the Office of Mayor Michael D. Quill

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery as Araminta Ross in Bucktown, near Cambridge, Maryland in the early 1820's; and

WHEREAS, Harriet escaped from slavery in 1849 to eventually settle in Philadelphia, where she was introduced to William Still – the “Station Master of the Underground Railroad” and began her mission as one of their conductors; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman became known as the “Moses of her people” after making close to 20 trips leading some 300 slaves to freedom in Canada, along the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, in the mid 1850's, Harriet Tubman met William H. Seward and his wife Frances in Auburn, New York, through whom she contracted seven acres of land on South Street to build a home for herself, husband Nelson Davis and other family members; and

WHEREAS, in 1896 she purchased twenty-five adjoining acres to her home, including a frame house to expand her charitable work providing for poor, sick, and elderly formerly enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, on the 10th day of March 1913, Harriet Tubman departed for Eternal life and was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, today her home and property in Auburn are registered as a National Historic Landmark; and,

WHEREAS, in 1998 this site was designated as part of the National Parks Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; and,

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2014 President Barack Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which included establishing as part of the National Park Service the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park which will protect in perpetuity sites associated with Tubman in Cambridge, Maryland and Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Ross Tubman is an inspiration to many people, as her life's work of dedication and commitment to the abolition of slavery makes her one of our Nation's greatest historical figures, and it is therefore fitting that people everywhere pay tribute to this significant American champion of freedom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the members of City Council and citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim the 10th day of March, 2015, as **HARRIET TUBMAN DAY** in the City of Auburn, New York.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn, New York to be affixed this 5th day of March 2015.

Michael D. Quill
Mayor
City of Auburn, New York