



City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, states and entities across the country have embraced and designated the month of September as International Underground Railroad Month because it has been historically documented that it is the month that two of the most well known freedom seekers and Underground Railroad operatives, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the United States Congress, adopted legislation titled, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, creating the Network to Freedom program of the National Park Service, with its mission, “through collaboration with local, state and federal entities, as well as individuals and organizations, to honor, preserve and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight commonly known as the Underground Railroad, which continues to inspire people worldwide”; and

WHEREAS, a local research study titled “Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Auburn and Cayuga County” was completed in 2005 and published by the City of Auburn’s Historic Resources Review Board and the Cayuga County Historian’s Office, documented over 100 sites in Cayuga County linked to the Underground Railroad of which 12 are listed as partner sites of the NPS Underground Network to Freedom program; and

WHEREAS, locally in the year 2022 the City of Auburn has celebrated the legacy of Harriet Tubman the most famous Conductor of the Underground Railroad through the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial celebration; and

WHEREAS, one featured event of the Tubman Bicentennial celebration highlights the story of the City of Auburn’s Underground Railroad pioneers, Kate and Harry Freeman, founders of the New Guinea Negro Settlement in Auburn, as told through the homecoming of their descendent, Pastor Ted Freeman, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, through the work of many individuals involved locally at sites and organizations such as the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, the Seward House Museum, the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center, the Cayuga County Office of Tourism, Opendore and the Howland Stone Store Museum, among many others, the preservation, promotion and education of the legacy of the Underground Railroad is told daily as a significant part of our history in Auburn and Cayuga County.

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 in the year of Harriet Tubman’s Bicentennial Celebration and upon the occasion of the homecoming of Pastor Ted Freeman, Jr. that the month of September 2022 is hereby designated as

Kate and Harry Freeman International Underground Railroad Month

in the City of Auburn and encourage all to attend events, visit sites and learn more about the important role the people and sites of Auburn and Cayuga County in the 1800’s played through their courageous participation as part of the Underground Railroad.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Fifteenth day of September 2022.

Michael D. Quill, Mayor
City of Auburn, New York