



# City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery as Araminta Ross in Bucktown, near Cambridge, Maryland in 1822; 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 many trips leading several slaves to freedom in Canada, along the Underground Railroad; and

**WHEREAS**, following her escape from slavery she joined with the Union Army and served as a nurse, scout, cook and spy in the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, following the war she met Secretary William H. Seward and his wife Frances here in Auburn, through whom she contracted seven acres of land on South Street to build a home for herself and other family members; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1896 she purchased an additional twenty-five adjoining acres to her home, including a frame house that would become known as her Home for the Aged to expand her charitable work providing for poor, sick and elderly formerly enslaved people; and

**WHEREAS**, over the 50 years that she lived in Auburn she took everything she earned and gave it back in service to others and she fought for racial and gender equality with civil rights and suffrage activism; and

**WHEREAS**, on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Park 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 creating the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park which will protect in perpetuity sites associated with Tubman in Cambridge, Maryland and Auburn, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2017 the U.S. Interior Secretary signed the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park officially making the Auburn site the 414<sup>th</sup> unit of our National Park Service; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, following years of research and planning the National Park Service broke ground on a rehabilitation project of the Thompson Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church located on Parker Street and in the summer of 2024 the site will open as part of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Harriet Ross Tubman is an inspiration to many people, as her life’s work fighting for freedom and equality 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, James N Giannettino, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the members of City Council and citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, 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 to be affixed this Seventh day of March 2024.**

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**James N Giannettino, Jr, Mayor**  
City of Auburn, New York