

Resolution 2021-18

Resolution Honoring Liberian Independence Day

Whereas, African-American settlers, both formerly enslaved freedmen and African-Americans born free in the United States, settled on the West Coast of Africa through efforts of the American Colonization Society; and,

Whereas, the Greater Philadelphia Area hosted the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, a multiracial society which advocated the abolition of slavery and included notable Free Black Philadelphia leaders, James Forten, Absalom Jones, Richard Allen, Martin Delaney, as supporters; and,

Whereas, over 18 000 African-American settlers from all places in the United States including the Greater Philadelphia emigrated to the colony, which came to be known as Liberia, through the years 1822 and 1850; and,

Whereas, the settlers in Africa broke with the American Colonization Society and met in Constitutional Convention to create a new nation and declare the Commonwealth of Liberia independent from the United States and created the Republic of Liberia; and,

Whereas, the members of the Constitutional Convention in Liberia created the Republic of Liberia on July 26, 1847 as the first republic and the United States recognized Liberia as a separate nation in 1862; and,

Whereas, the historic ties of the Republic of Liberia and the United States create a special bond between our countries; and,

Whereas, thousands of immigrants from Liberia have resettled in Lansdowne, Upper Darby, and Southwest Philadelphia; thus, creating a community known in the Philadelphia area as Little Monrovia; and,

Whereas, the vibrant community of Liberian-Americans have created organizations, such as ACANA in Philadelphia and Multi-Cultural Family Services in Upper Darby among others and members of the Liberian-American community contribute to the civic life, the neighborhoods, and the culture of Lansdowne;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that Lansdowne Borough Council honors the Liberian community in the Greater Lansdowne Community by recognizing Liberian Independence Day, July 26, 2020 as Liberia Day in Lansdowne;

Further, be it resolved, that the Borough of Lansdowne will raise the flag of Liberia to a place of honor beside the flag of the United States in a ceremony to take place on July 24th.


Benjamin D. Hover, Council President

ATTEST: 
Craig Totaro, Assistant Borough Secretary