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ROCLAMATION



BASTROPTX
Heart of the Lost Pines / Est. 1832

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in 1822 and escaped from her plantation in 1849 in Maryland and became a free woman in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Tubman made numerous trips back to the South between 1849 and 1860; and

WHEREAS, During this time period she helped free her parents, husband, family and approximately 70 enslaved friends in about 10 trips; and

WHEREAS, She had a wanted dead or alive bounty for her capture valued at \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, Tubman joined the Union Army in 1860 and became a scout and spy, becoming the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the Civil War and liberated more than 700 more enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Tubman moved to Auburn New York, where she had purchased property and cared for her aging parents, and was involved in the suffragette movement fighting not only for the rights of women, but also for minorities, the disabled and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman is remembered today because of the bravery she displayed as an African-American woman who could not read or write, but managed to navigate her way with many passengers to freedom on the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, On this day, we are celebrating the arrival of the traveling sculptural exhibition "Harriet Tubman- The Journey to Freedom" by acclaimed sculptor Wesley Wofford of North Carolina to the Kerr Community Center and Park in Bastrop, Texas; and

WHEREAS, This exhibition was installed at this time to coincide with the City's Juneteenth Celebration and 110th Anniversary of the Kerr Community Center and will continue to be enjoyed by citizens of Texas through August 2024; and

WHEREAS, "The Journey to Freedom" is a powerful portrait of Harriet Tubman, intentionally depicting the leadership, selflessness, and courage that she has

demonstrated during her fight for freedom from slavery for herself and so many others; and

WHEREAS, Locating the sculpture at the Kerr Community Center brings attention to the important role African Americans have had in the history and development of the City of Bastrop. This site is central to the city's historic African American Cultural District, where many of our local heroes also bravely fought to abolish slavery and establish equal rights for all; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bastrop, Texas, is thrilled to be the first site in Texas to host this prestigious exhibit. In September 2024, it will next travel to the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bastrop is even more honored to join the rank of exhibitors because the statue was cast by the talented men and women of Pyrology Foundry & Studio, located in Bastrop, Texas. It is a tremendous source of pride for our city that our friends and neighbors had a hand in bringing this meaningful and important sculpture to fruition; and

WHEREAS, It is indeed an honor to share the legacy of Harriet Tubman who continues to inspire us today for her bravery in risking her life on the many journeys that freed enslaved people on the Underground Railroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas recognize the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Seal of the City of Bastrop, Texas to be affixed this 11th day of June 2024.

Lyle Nelson, Mayor

John Kirkland, Mayor Pro Tem

Cheryl Lee, Council Member

Cynthia Meyer, Council Member

Kevin Plunkett, Council Member

Kerry Fossler, Council Member

