

1

2

3 RESOLUTION NO. 23-2020 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH  
4 URGING THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
5 COMMISSIONERS TO RENAME "DIXIE HIGHWAY" AND CEASE  
6 UPHOLDING THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S SHAMEFUL AND RACIST  
7 HISTORY IN THE CONFEDARACY, SLAVERY, AND WHITE  
8 SUPREMACY AND PROMOTE INSTEAD A NEW ERA OF HEALING AND  
9 RACIAL EQUALITY.

10

11 **WHEREAS**, "Dixie Highway" is a result of millionaire Carl G. Fisher's idea in 1914  
12 to encourage travel from the Midwest to Miami Beach long before President Dwight E.  
13 Eisenhower's creation of the interstate highway system and completed in Palm Beach,  
14 Broward, and Miami-Dade counties in 1915; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the term "Dixie" has a long racist history propping up the movements  
16 of the confederacy, southern slave owners, the Ku Klux Klan, and white supremacy. The  
17 term "Dixie" since its introduction has served as a term of endearment for the "South" by  
18 the Confederacy and its' supporters then and now. The song "Dixie" known as the  
19 unofficial anthem of the Confederacy also boasts a line that is reminiscent of slavery  
20 stating, "I wish I was in the land of the cotton/ Old times there are not forgotten." The  
21 writer of the original "Dixie" song, Daniel Decatur Emmet, performed the song often in  
22 racist caricature of the minstrel blackface; and

23 **WHEREAS**, "Dixie Highway" was one of two streets that divided the African-  
24 American community in Lake Worth Beach from the rest of the community; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, the City of Riviera Beach in their jurisdiction renamed "Dixie  
26 Highway" to "President Barack Obama Highway" recognizing the painful history the name  
27 brought to residents of the segregation between black and white neighborhoods. Riviera  
28 Beach Mayor Thomas Masters at the time of the decision said, "It was an insult to have  
29 a street named Old Dixie in the heart of an African-American community. Old Dixie  
30 represented hatred and racism, evil and bigotry, segregation and the Ku Klux Klan."; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 the City of Hollywood was next in the national movement to  
32 take down Confederate monuments and voted to replace the outdated and offensive  
33 street names of "Forrest", "Lee", and "Hood" that were painful reminders of Confederacy  
34 generals and the founder of the Ku Klux Klan to the new names of "Freedom", "Hope",  
35 and "Liberty" streets; and

36 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 State Representative Shevrin Jones of District 101,  
37 encouraged localities throughout Florida to rename their portions of "Dixie Highway"  
38 stating that, "It does not represent who we are and what we stand for as a country today.  
39 Monuments went up after the Civil War to tell blacks, "This will always remain the South".

40 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 initiated by Commissioner Dennis Moss, members of the  
41 Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners began deliberating the renaming of  
42 the portion of "Dixie Highway" that runs through Miami-Dade County; and

43 **WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the Miami-Dade County Board of County  
44 Commissioners voted unanimously to rename the portion of "Dixie Highway" that runs  
45 through Miami-Dade County; and

46

47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88

**WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners agreed that “Dixie Highway” should be renamed, and committed to working with the cities through which the highway runs to rename it; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of Lake Worth Beach wishes to urge the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners to rename the portion of “Dixie Highway” that runs through Palm Beach County and abandon the outdated and painful reminder of violent oppression and segregation that the name symbolizes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** Each of the above recitals are hereby incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** The Lake Worth Beach City Commission believes in restorative justice and urges the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners to rename “Dixie Highway,” the outdated and painful reminder of racist oppression, and promote healing and racial equity in Palm Beach County.

**SECTION 3.** The Lake Worth Beach City Commission believes that Dixie Highway should be named after Fannie and Sam James, the former slaves who settled in what is today known as Lake Worth Beach and who are generally recognized to have founded the City of Lake Worth Beach.

**SECTION 4.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The passage of this resolution was moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

- Mayor Pam Triolo
- Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso
- Commissioner Scott Maxwell
- Commissioner Omari Hardy
- Commissioner Herman Robinson

Mayor Pam Triolo thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

LAKE WORTH BEACH CITY COMMISSION

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Triolo, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah M. Andrea, CMC, City Clerk