



## STATE *of* MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: The Indigenous Taino people were first contacted by Europeans off the coast of Haiti in 1492, a name deriving from the Arawak language that was restored after independence was won from the French; and

WHEREAS: Haiti became the only nation in the Western Hemisphere to defeat three European empires, and remains the only nation in the world established as the result of a successful revolutionary uprising of enslaved African people; and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of Haitians have made the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area their home, often as refugees, and this civically engaged community is a unique part of the diversity of Minnesota, contributing to our culture and economy; and

WHEREAS: After Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2010, the Haitian diaspora community in Minnesota and around the world took action, gathering resources and supplies to send home; and

WHEREAS: The local Haitian community created the nonprofit Haitian Community of Minnesota to align efforts for the earthquake relief and have continued to provide services to local Haitian families through this organization; and

WHEREAS: On May 18 of each year, the nation of Haiti and Haitian people all over the world celebrate Haitian Flag Day, which commemorates the adoption of the flag at the 1803 Arcahaye Conference; and

WHEREAS: Haitian Flag Day provides an opportunity for the Haitian community to come together to celebrate and share their history and culture; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes and is grateful for the rich contributions of Haitian Minnesotans to our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 18, 2018, as:

## HAITIAN COMMUNITY OF MINNESOTA DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Dayton".

GOVERNOR

