



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0856-2007, **Version:** *

Res. No. 856

Resolution recognizing the contributions of Caribbean Americans and people of Caribbean descent to the City of New York and designating the month of June as “Caribbean Heritage Month”.

By Council Members Comrie, Avella, Dickens, Fidler, Foster, Gennaro, James, Koppell, Liu, Mealy, Sears, Weprin and Mark-Viverito

Whereas, People of Caribbean ancestry have a long and distinguished history in New York City; and

Whereas, New York City’s Caribbean American population represents a wide array of countries, ranging from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, to the many islands of the West Indies; and

Whereas, This remarkably diverse population has brought an extraordinary variety of cultural influences into the City; and

Whereas, Caribbeans are among New York City’s oldest and most established ethnic groups, having lived in New York City since the City’s founding in the 17th century; and

Whereas, Caribbean Americans in New York City have risen to distinction in countless fields ranging from government to the arts, and include such influential and accomplished New Yorkers as Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, Shirley Chisholm, the first African American elected to the United States Congress, civil rights leader Marcus Garvey, historian and writer Arthur Schomburg, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, actor and musician Harry Belafonte, and legendary actor Sidney Poitier; and

Whereas, In 2005, The United States Congress adopted a resolution authored by Representative Barbara Lee that designated June as “Caribbean Heritage Month;” and

Whereas, President George Bush designated June 2006 as “Caribbean Heritage Month in the United States of America;” and

Whereas, On June 16, 2006, the New York City Council passed a resolution declaring June 2006 as “Caribbean Heritage Month;” and

Whereas, In June 2007, various Caribbean American organizations will be hosting and coordinating a variety of events in New York City to celebrate this year’s Caribbean Heritage Month; and

Whereas, The extraordinary music, dance, poetry, theatre and cuisine of the Caribbean region have greatly enriched the cultural life of New York City; and

Whereas, Caribbean Americans have earned the recognition of New York City’s government for the important roles that they and their ancestors have played in the development of the City; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York recognizes the contributions of Caribbean Americans and people of Caribbean descent to the City of New York and designates the month of June, as “Caribbean Heritage Month”.

SO
LS #3198
5/21/07
5:00pm