



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** Res 1000-2016      **Version:** \*      **Name:** Recognizing March 5th as “Three-Fifths Clause Awareness Day” to be officially observed each year in NYC.

**Type:** Resolution      **Status:** Adopted

**In control:** Committee on Civil Rights

**On agenda:** 3/9/2016

**Enactment date:**      **Enactment #:**

**Title:** Resolution recognizing March 5th as “Three-Fifths Clause Awareness Day” to be officially observed each year in New York City.

**Sponsors:** Andy L. King, Margaret S. Chin, Inez D. Barron, Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., Vanessa L. Gibson, Rosie Mendez, Ritchie J. Torres, Deborah L. Rose, Fernando Cabrera, Darlene Mealy, Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Daniel Dromm, Mathieu Eugene, Andrew Cohen, Eric A. Ulrich

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** 1. March 9, 2016 - Stated Meeting Agenda with Links to Files, 2. Committee Report 4/18/16, 3. Hearing Testimony 4/18/16, 4. Hearing Transcript 4/18/16, 5. Committee Report 5/3/16, 6. Hearing Transcript 5/3/16, 7. May 5, 2016 - Stated Meeting Agenda with Links to Files, 8. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 5-5-16, 9. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - May 5, 2016

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/9/2016	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
3/9/2016	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
4/18/2016	*	Committee on Civil Rights	Hearing Held by Committee	
4/18/2016	*	Committee on Civil Rights	Laid Over by Committee	
5/3/2016	*	Committee on Civil Rights	Hearing Held by Committee	
5/3/2016	*	Committee on Civil Rights	Approved by Committee	Pass
5/5/2016	*	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 1000

Resolution recognizing March 5<sup>th</sup> as “Three-Fifths Clause Awareness Day” to be officially observed each year in New York City.

By Council Members King, Chin, Barron, Cornegy, Gibson, Mendez, Torres, Rose, Cabrera, Mealy, Ferreras-Copeland, Dromm, Eugene, Cohen and Ulrich

Whereas, The Three-Fifths Clause enacted in the United States Constitution in 1787 declared that enslaved persons, the majority of whom were African-Americans, would be counted as three-fifths of a person in calculating each state’s total population; and

Whereas, The clause was enacted as a compromise in the debate over whether and how enslaved

persons would be counted when determining a state's total population for legislative and taxing purposes; and

Whereas, The Three-Fifths Clause provided that representation in Congress would be based on the "whole Number of free Persons" and "three-fifths of all other persons" meaning those who were enslaved were not considered whole persons; and

Whereas, Due to this clause and the fact that representation within the federal legislature is based on a state's total population, southern states were granted significantly more seats in Congress and the Electoral College; and

Whereas, The enactment of the Three-Fifths Clause allowed the interests of slaveholders to largely dominate the United States government, considering that African-Americans were denied the right to vote and were treated as property; and

Whereas, Although southern states largely benefitted from this clause, northern states such as New York, where slavery was not abolished until 1827, did as well; and

Whereas, In addition to the precise impacts the Three-Fifths Clause had on representation, it also set a precedent for the perpetual unequal treatment of African-Americans in the United States that would go on for centuries and is still felt today; and

Whereas, Through the Emancipation of Slavery, the Reconstruction Era, repealing of Jim Crow Laws, and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's, African-Americans have not only fought for equal rights, but the acknowledgement of their full humanity; and

Whereas, Bringing awareness to the Three-Fifths Clause is of importance to understanding the current day plight of African-Americans in New York City and the nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York recognizes March 5<sup>th</sup> as "Three-Fifths Clause Awareness Day" to be officially observed each year in New York City.

LS#6687  
02.25.16  
CA