



Proclamation

Caribbean American Heritage Month 2026

WHEREAS, the month of June is nationally recognized as Caribbean American Heritage Month, a time to honor the rich histories, cultures, and traditions of the Caribbean and to recognize the enduring contributions of Caribbean communities to our nation and society; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the national observance of Caribbean American Heritage Month, commemorating two decades of celebrating the achievements, leadership, and impact of Caribbean Americans in shaping the social, cultural, economic, and civic fabric of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Caribbean is home to thirteen sovereign island nations including Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, each rooted in its own powerful history and cultural identity while collectively reflecting the diversity, resilience, and global influence of the Caribbean region; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Caribbean is marked by legacies of resistance, self-determination, and revolutionary struggle against slavery, colonialism, and economic exploitation. From the maroon communities that defied imperial rule to labor uprisings and independence movements across the region, Caribbean people have consistently fought for freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Caribbean has produced visionary leaders whose courage and commitment challenged oppression, including Toussaint Louverture of Haiti, whose leadership in the Haitian Revolution helped pave the way for the establishment of Haiti as the first independent Black country in the Western Hemisphere and as the first sovereign nation in the Caribbean to emerge from a successful slave revolt; Marcus Garvey of Jamaica, whose advocacy for Black pride, Pan-African unity, and self-reliance transformed political consciousness across the African diaspora; and Elma Francois of Trinidad and Tobago, whose fearless organizing advanced labor rights, anti-colonial resistance, and the empowerment of working people; and

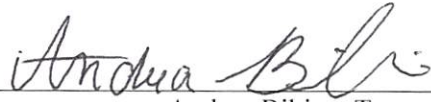
WHEREAS, the enduring legacies of these leaders and movements and the people of the Caribbean continue to inspire efforts to shape contemporary struggles for democracy, human rights, and national sovereignty; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Joliet Township Government Board hereby recognizes June 2026 as Caribbean American Heritage Month and encourages all residents to celebrate the remarkable history, vibrant cultures, and lasting contributions of Caribbean Americans to our community, our state, and our nation.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of June of 2026.



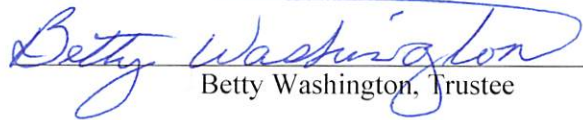
Quinn Adamowski, Trustee



Andrea Bibian, Trustee



Archie Gavin, Trustee



Betty Washington, Trustee



Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:



Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk