



Resolution

WHEREAS, Garifuna Settlement Day, observed on April 12th, is the celebration of the settlement of the Garifuna people along the shores of Punta Gorda, Roatán, Honduras 227 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Garifunas, or Garinagu, are the descendants of West Africans and Arawak Indians who fought to remain free of British Colonial rule during the late eighteenth century; in 1796, Garifunas were exiled by the British from the island of St. Vincent to Punta Gorda, Roatán, the largest of Honduras' Bay Islands, and spread to Nicaragua, Belize, Guatemala, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, today, approximately 7,000 Garifuna people of the over 300,000 in the U.S. call Houston home; each year, Houston and Precinct 4 host one of the largest Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, celebrations include exhibitions of traditional music and styles like punta, street dances, parades, and traditional Garifuna foods such as cassava bread, hudut, and machuca; Garifuna Settlement Day also serves as a time to share the rich oral history and traditions of the Garifuna people; and

WHEREAS, the Garifuna community has made innumerable economic, social, and cultural contributions to enrich Precinct 4 and Harris County; and

WHEREAS, Precinct 4 is grateful for the Lumalali Limu International Organization (LLIO), which strives to share the Garifuna's heritage with all of Houston; and

WHEREAS, in addition to preserving the cultural history of the Garifuna through hosting events such as cultural fashion shows and its Garifuna festival, LLIO supports small businesses and promotes civic engagement throughout Precinct 4;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Harris County Commissioners Court hereby respectfully celebrates

GARIFUNA SETTLEMENT DAY

and encourages Harris County residents to join in celebrating the rich traditions of the Garifuna.

It is hereby ORDERED that this Resolution be included in the minutes of Commissioners Court this 23rd day of April 2024.

Lina Hidalgo, County Judge

Rodney Ellis
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Adrian Garcia
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Lesley Briones
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Teneshia Hudspeth, County Clerk
Harris County, TEXAS