



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

*Introduced by: Mahan, Aylesworth, Beumer, Braun,
Brown C, DeLaney, Dermody, Errington, GiaQuinta,
Goodin, Hale, Judy, Karickhoff, Kirchhofer, Klinker,
Niezgodski, Olthoff, Pelath, Pierce, Porter, Pryor, Smith M,
Smith V, Washburne, Wright*

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring
Indiana's rich African American heritage and history.

*Whereas, Indiana is rich in African American heritage and
history;*

*Whereas, As a neighbor of Kentucky, Indiana was
strategically located for runaway slaves seeking freedom and
safe passage to the North;*

Whereas, Popular understanding of Indiana black history

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normally focuses on post-Civil War African American migration to cities in the North but fails to reveal the stories of free blacks and formerly enslaved people who settled here before Indiana was a state;

Whereas, These untold stories have the potential to add a level of understanding to our knowledge of black heritage and history;

Whereas, Indiana Landmarks, through its African American Landmarks Committee, has worked for several years to preserve and protect significant African American sites and structures;

Whereas, The Indiana Historical Society recently spearheaded a statewide data collection effort to provide a comprehensive knowledge base of Indiana's early African American settlers;

Whereas, Currently there are several places where Hoosiers can further their knowledge of our state's African American heritage and history;

Whereas, The Indiana African American Heritage Trail was founded in 2004 by Maxine F. Brown and marks sites and individuals instrumental in the history of African Americans in Southern Indiana from the early 1800s to the late 1900s;

Whereas, A prototype for the trail spans Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Gibson, and Orange counties with the goal to extend the trail throughout all 92 counties;

Whereas, The Indiana African American Heritage Trail will help to promote cultural heritage tourism for tourists and Indiana residents alike to understand more completely the history of each African American community in Indiana;

Whereas, In addition to the Indiana African American Heritage Trail, the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Indiana Historical Society are repositories that maintain significant histories of the African American history of our state;



Whereas, Black entrepreneurs can contribute to a more thorough understanding of black history and heritage in Indiana through the establishment of tourism-related businesses and by promoting cultural heritage tourism;

Whereas, All Hoosiers should be aware of the early history of African Americans in Indiana; and

Whereas, Black Americans reflect a legacy of courage and dedication that has helped to guide Indiana's success and prosperity: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes to
- 2 preserve and honor our rich African American heritage and history.
- 3 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 4 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to Maxine
- 5 Brown-Southern, Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc.

