

# CITY OF SPOKANE



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1804, marks the first day Haitian people began to live in a country that was free of enslavement and colonial rule by the French government which had colonized the land of Haiti, and as a result, decided to enslave and torture its people. Former Haitian slave Jean-Jaques Dessalines was the man of the hour as he declared Haiti's independence, marking the country's true freedom from France, ending a longstanding revolutionary war that began in 1791, and as a result, made Haiti the first free black republic and nation to abolish slavery, sparking change within other Westernized countries like America, who at the time was experiencing similar practices of enslavement and colonialism. Haitians led the way forward by demonstrating the power of resilience, unity, and an unyielding pursuit of freedom that others at the time could only dream of; and

**WHEREAS**, today we celebrate the ingenuity, unity, hope, resilience, hard work, community, and creativity of the Haitian people, many of whom have decided to call Spokane, WA home and who have much to offer to our great community; we acknowledge and celebrate Haitian Independence Day and Month in Spokane because it grants us the privilege to honor the legacy of Haiti's fight for freedom, helping to foster unity and mutual respect among all of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane encourages all residents to attend the Haitian Community Day on January 6, 2025 at City Hall to celebrate Haitian culture, history, and contributions through cultural events and activities organized by the local Haitian community. This event commemorates Spokane's commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting equity, and acknowledging the histories and achievements of all its communities:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

### HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE MONTH

in Spokane and urge all residents to join in commemorating this important observance by celebrating the history, culture, and enduring spirit of the Haitian people.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,  
do hereunto set my hand and  
cause the seal of the City of Spokane  
to be affixed this  
2nd day of January 2025.

*Lisa Brown*

Lisa Brown  
Mayor

