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**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE RENAMING OF “DIXIE HIGHWAY” TO NO LONGER UPHOLD THE STATE OF FLORIDA’S SHAMEFUL AND RACIST HISTORY IN THE CONFEDARACY, SLAVERY, AND WHITE SUPREMACY AND RATHER PROMOTE A NEW ERA OF HEALING AND RACIAL EQUALITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, “Dixie Highway” is a result of millionaire Carl G. Fisher’s idea in 1914 to encourage travel from the Midwest to Miami Beach long before President Dwight E. Eisenhower’s creation of the interstate highway system and completed in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties in 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, the term “Dixie” has a long racist history propping up the movements of the confederacy, southern slave owners, the Ku Klux Klan, and white supremacy. The term “Dixie” since its’ introduction has served as a term of endearment for the “South” by the Confederacy and its’ supporters then and now. The song “Dixie” known as the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy also boasts a line that is reminiscent of slavery stating, “I wish I was in the land of the cotton/ Old times there are not forgotten.” The writer of the original “Dixie” song, Daniel Decatur Emmet, performed the song often in racist caricature of the minstrel blackface; and

**WHEREAS**, “Dixie Highway” is remembered by many who grew up in Hallandale Beach when it was still named the City of Hallandale as the boundaries of Jim Crow laws and segregation in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 the City of Riviera Beach in their jurisdiction renamed “Dixie Highway” to “President Barack Obama Highway” recognizing the painful history the name brought to residents of the segregation between black and white neighborhoods. Riviera Beach Mayor Thomas Masters at the time of the decision said, “It was an insult to have a street named Old Dixie in the heart of an African-American community. Old Dixie represented hatred and racism, evil and bigotry, segregation and the Ku Klux Klan.”; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the City of Hollywood was next in the national movement to take down Confederate monuments and voted to replace the outdated and offensive street names of “Forrest”, “Lee”, and “Hood” that were painful reminders of Confederacy generals and the founder of the Ku Klux Klan to the new names of “Freedom”, “Hope”, and “Liberty” streets. In the City of

Hollywood Commission's decision, they were supported by the local Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz FL-23 whose district includes most of Hallandale Beach stated, "'At its heart the question before you today is a question of basic human decency. No parent should have to explain to their child that the street they live on is named after someone who fought for the right to keep people enslaved.'" State Rep. Joseph Geller District 100 and State Rep. Shevrin Jones District 101 also expressed adamant support for the street renaming and both also represent the City of Hallandale Beach in the Florida House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 State Representative Shevrin Jones of District 101, representing west portions of Hallandale Beach encouraged localities throughout Florida to rename their portions of "Dixie Highway" stating that, "It does not represent who we are and what we stand for as a country today. "Monuments went up after the Civil War to tell blacks, 'This will always remain the South.'"

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 initiated by Commissioner Dennis Moss, members of the Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners began deliberating the renaming of the portion of "Dixie Highway" that runs through Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission of Hallandale Beach wish to encourage the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to begin discussions on the renaming of the portion of "Dixie Highway" that runs through Broward County as the outdated and painful reminder of violent oppression and segregation that the name symbolizes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** Each of the above recitals are hereby incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** The Mayor and City Commission of Hallandale Beach believe in restorative justice and encourage the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to consider renaming the outdated and painful reminder of racist oppression that "Dixie Highway" brings and promote healing and racial equality in Broward County as other localities have pursued.

**SECTION 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

66 APPROVED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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JOY D. ADAMS

70 MAYOR

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72 SPONSORED BY: VICE MAYOR SABRINA JAVELLANA

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74 ATTEST:

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JENORGEN M. GUILLEN, CMC

79 CITY CLERK

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81 APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY AND FORM

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JENNIFER MERINO

85 CITY ATTORNEY

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