

PROCLAMATION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: August 12, 1997

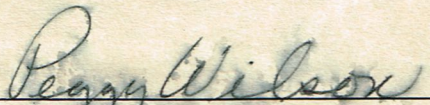
WHEREAS, William Loren Katz in his book on Black Indians wrote, "the first permanent foreign colony to be established on U.S. soil was founded in 1526 on the Pee Dee river in South Carolina when Native Americans rescued 100 Africans from Spanish slavery." Ninety-four years before Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, our Native American and African forebearers brought forth upon this continent a Maroon nation where the principles pronounced 250 years later in the Declaration of Independence were practiced as a way of life. This Nation, born of an act of kindness and nurtured by mutual respect, created through the sharing of song and dance a new culture whose legacy remains an inspiration for those who believe racial harmony to be an achievable goal"; and

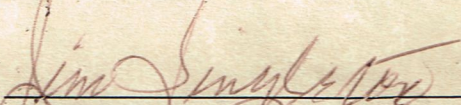
WHEREAS, this was the first of many Maroon nations created here in the United States as men and women seeking their freedom joined with those seeking to preserve their freedom. From the Black Shinnecoaks of Long Island to the Black Choctaws of New Orleans, these nations grew and flourished despite opposition from colonial authorities; and

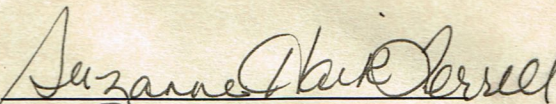
WHEREAS, the existence and contributions of these nations such as the Black Seminoles who were the first people to successfully farm the Florida swamps by using African cultivation techniques brought from Senegambia and Sierra Leone, and who received national recognition by treaty from both the U.S. and Mexico, have been suppressed by the concerns of slavery and apartheid; now, therefore

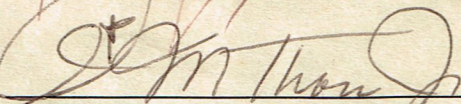
BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS That this Council proudly recognizes the beauty and integrity of the American Maroon cultures, the Maroon nation of New Orleans and its Big Chief Allison "Tootie" Montana, Keeper of the Sacred Circle Treaty of 1994 and maker of the Peacekeeper crown and joins Dr. Arvol Looking Horse, 19th generation keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe through his representative here in New Orleans at the

**White Buffalo Day
Lighting of the Sacred Fire of the Spirit of this Nation
Congo Square
August 27, 1997**


Peggy Wilson
City Council President


James M. Singleton, Sr.
Councilmember-at-Large


Suzanne Haik Terrell
Councilmember, District "A"


Oliver M. Thomas
Councilmember, District "B"

