

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, five years ago, Michael Gibson founded the "I Am Ormond Beach" Reunion Committee to keep former and current residents communicating with one another. The event started with a premise to get together annually and reminiscence about the positive influences in their lives. The reunion has grown into a unique celebration that includes an abundance of food, health fair, various entertainment and a golf outing. The reunion also celebrates the African-American community's heritage, as well as, the contributions former and present residents of immediate families made to each other and Ormond Beach. Past celebrations have honored African-American military veterans, educators, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and caddies, as well as an extended community that threads throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Michael Gibson, who grew up with his eleven brothers and sisters in Ormond Beach, spent a lot of time at "the rec," officially known as the South Ormond Neighborhood Center. It was the heart of the African-American recreation community in Ormond, as everybody went to "the rec" to play baseball, basketball, or just hang out with friends; and

WHEREAS, as long as anyone can remember, the African-American residents on South Washington Street have referred to their neighborhood as Liberia while those living north of Granada Boulevard referred to their side as Sudan, but no one knew why until recently when Michael Gibson came across a newspaper article about the neighborhood. The story explained that in the late 1800's and early 1900's, descendents of American slaves settled in Ormond, naming their community after the countries their ancestors came from: Liberia and Sudan; and

WHEREAS, Michael Gibson decided to approach the City Commission a few months ago to request historic signs for the area, and after going through the proper channels, the City Commissioners approved the signs, which are in place today; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ormond Beach believes that history enhances the quality of life found in Ormond Beach, and encourages all of us black and white, to work in partnership to preserve their stories for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ed Kelley, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby encourage the citizens of Ormond Beach to celebrate the "I Am Ormond Beach" Reunion Committee on July 12, 2012, for their efforts in preserving the history of

LIBERIA AND SUDAN

in the City of Ormond Beach and encourage all residents to join with me in expressing our appreciation to all involved for their commitment and efforts to preserve our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 12th day of July in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve.




ED KELLEY
Mayor