

PROCLAMATION

By the Mayor

WHEREAS, In recognition of Topeka, Kansas as a powerful destination for authentic Underground Railroad history and in commemoration of all those involved in the Underground Railroad and the thousands of freedom seekers; and

WHEREAS, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for a more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is home to 21 different National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom sites; and

WHEREAS, Topeka, Kansas is represented on the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom with Constitution Hall, the John and Mary Ritchie House, the John Armstrong House, and the Owens House; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's Brown v. Board National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas is an international center for learning more about these struggles for freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area as a National Park Service Partner serves to bring together these many Freedom Sites as part of its mission to document and share the enduring struggle for freedom in Kansas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of the City of Topeka, Kansas, do proclaim the month of September, 2020, as

International Underground Railroad Month

In the City of Topeka.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of the City of Topeka, Kansas, do hereby affix my official signature and the Official Seal of the City of Topeka, Kansas, on this Day of September 15, 2020.

Michelle De La Isla, Mayor