

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD

RESOLUTION 16 - 227

HONORING THE FIRST WAVE OF JAMAICANS TO SEABROOK FARMS

WHEREAS, Seabrook Farms was one of the largest producers of canned and frozen vegetables in the world and a major supplier of food to the military during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Seabrook Farms hired immigrant workers which included refugees from Eastern Europe, Japanese citizens from Latin American, Japanese Americans from the internment camps, college students from the Historical Black Colleges in the south and young men from the Jamaica West Indies to meet its production needs with The First Wave of Jamaicans arriving at Seabrook Farms in May 1943; and

WHEREAS, The First Wave of Jamaican immigrants included the surnames of Townsend, Pearson, Duncan, Myrie, Carey, Sanderson, Williams, Brooks, Glanville, Parker, Smalls, Russell, Williamson, Grant, Brown, McPherson, Thames, Ellis, Green, Everston, Maxwell, Anderson, Hendricks, Salter and Simon, who began to work in various capacities at Seabrook Farms. At the end of World War II, those who did not return to Jamaica, remained and became citizens of the United States, married and integrated into the fabric of Southern New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, they organized and built the West Indian American Progressive Club on Buckshutem Road in Fairfield Township. For many years the “Jamaican Club” served as the center of cultural, political and civic affairs; and

WHEREAS The First Wave of Jamaican immigrants, who raised their families in this area, left a lasting contribution to Seabrook and South Jersey through their hard work, patriotism and their pride in their heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that On August 6, 2016, seventy three years after the first arrival of Jamaican citizens to Seabrook Farms, the Township of Upper Deerfield recognizes the First Wave of Jamaicans and raise the Jamaican flag in their honor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be formally and permanently made a part of the minutes of this Body and a copy presented to the First Wave Jamaicans – First Generation Organization with the Township Committee’s warmest congratulations and best wishes in their future endeavors.

James P. Crilley, Chairman

John T. O’Neill, Sr., Vice Chairman

John L. Daddario, Committeeman

Bruce T. Peterson, Committeeman

Scott Smith, Committeeman

Attest: August 4, 2016

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk