

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-113

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JULY 25 THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2020,
AS “GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK” IN
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

WHEREAS, Africans began arriving on the Sea Islands in the 1500s; and

WHEREAS, the population of these Africans increased as chattel enslavement grew in the 1600s and later on Amelia Island and along the Florida coast; and

WHEREAS, these Africans began to engage with and in some instances created families with indigenous Americans in the region; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of this group are called “Gullah/Geechee;” and

WHEREAS, this group of self-sufficient people came together in 1999 throughout the Sea Islands and Lowcountry of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida to stand on their human right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, this group took one year to elect their own leader; and

WHEREAS, they elected and enstooled a St. Helena Island native whose family roots also stem from Polowana and Dataw Islands, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet has consistently worked with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast, FL which was the first organization in the state to stand up to authentically represent their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet has participated in leading numerous successful efforts to recognize the Gullah/Geechee legacy of Florida from Old Towne, Yulee, Nassauville, and American Beach in Nassau County down to St. Augustine, FL where Fort Mosé is located; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet has served as the official “Head pun de Bodee” and spokesperson for Gullah/Geechees since July 2, 2000; and

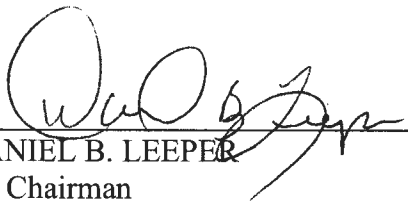
WHEREAS, the 20th Anniversary of the Gullah/Geechee Nation is being celebrated under the theme “#GullahGeechee2020;” and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the native Gullah/Geechees of the Gullah/Geechee Nation from Jacksonville, NC to Jacksonville, FL throughout the Sea Islands and Lowcountry and support the honoring of their ancestors that built this region and the continuation of this rich and cultural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 22nd day of June, 2020 that:

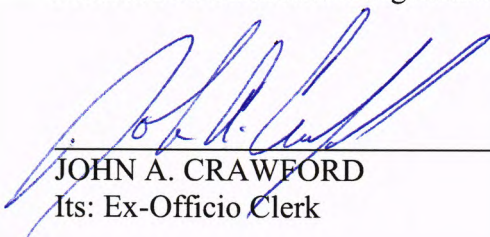
1. The hereby declares their continued support of Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage and the sustainability of the Gullah/Geechee Nation.
2. The Board hereby proclaims the week of July 25 through August 1, 2020 as “Gullah/ Geechee Nation Appreciation Week.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



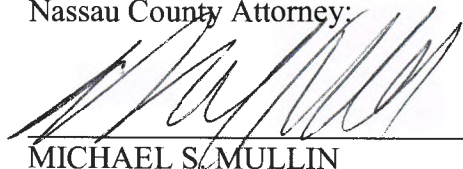
DANIEL B. LEEPER
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman’s Signature:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:



MICHAEL S. MULLIN