

**WHEREAS**, 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of the first National Caribbean American Heritage Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Caribbean American Heritage Month was first recognized by the White House in 1999 with the introduction of a bill to establish the holiday; the first proclamation marking the date was issued in 2006 by President George Bush; and

WHEREAS, immigrants from the Caribbean region have been settling in Florida since the 1800s, contributing significantly to the cultural, social, and economic development of the state; and

**WHEREAS,** Broward County, including the City of Margate, is home to a vibrant Caribbean American community, enriching the county's diversity with their traditions, music, cuisine, and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Margate recognizes the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of the roles Caribbean Americans have played in the development and growth of Margate and applauds their contributions to the City of Margate; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the latest data, the South Florida metropolitan has the second largest Caribbean American population in the United States, and their contributions are integral to the state's success in various sectors, including business, education, healthcare, and the arts; and

**WHEREAS,** this year's theme for National Caribbean American Heritage Month is "Creating Legacy through Cultural Connections," encouraging us all to join the global conversation on inclusion and diversity.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Tommy Ruzzano, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2024, as

## NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

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**TOMMY RUZZANO, MAYOR**