

# Proclamation



## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2013

WHEREAS, Africans have migrated to the District of Columbia and formed communities that contribute to the social, cultural, and economic character of our City; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia celebrates the incredible diversity of and within the African community regarding ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious, and political backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, African traditions and cultural heritage enrich the social fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, the District joins governments, communities and institutions around the world in recognizing this year as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the African Union and declaring it as the Year of Pan Africanism and the African Renaissance; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to tens of thousands of African residents, businesses, faith-based organizations and community associations; all of which symbolize the growing presence of the African community; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about African residents and institutions in the District through a tribute to past and present heroes of the African Diaspora will help to highlight their unique experiences and contributions to Society:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim September, 2013, as "AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH" in Washington, D.C., and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in commending the African community and thanking them for the active role they play in Washington, D.C.

*Vincent C. Gray*

