

RESOLUTION NO. 68

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2013 AS “AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH” IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 2/11/13

By Mss. McKnight, Chapman, Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Clay, Simpson and the Albany County Legislature:

WHEREAS, This month Albany County will join citizens from around the nation to commemorate National African-American History Month and pay tribute to the determination and triumphs of African-Americans throughout our Country’s history and to the legacy of their experience, and

WHEREAS, Albany County has chosen “At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality” as its theme for the 2013 observance of African-American History Month – as 2013 marks two important anniversaries in the history of African –Americans and the United States, and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, a wartime proposal issued by then President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation fueled the fire of enslaved African-Americans to strike for their freedom and the dismantlement of the “peculiar institution” of human bondage in America had begun, and

WHEREAS, In 1963, a century later, America once again stood at the crossroads, the U.S. Supreme Court had outlawed racial segregation in public schools, and

WHEREAS, Like Lincoln before him, President John F. Kennedy pondered over the legal and moral issues of his time, and on August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans, blacks and whites, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics marched to the memorial of Abraham Lincoln with Martin Luther King, Jr. in pursuit of equality of citizenship and announced the days of legal segregation in the United States were numbered, and

WHEREAS, As affirmation of the courage and conviction of those who marched that day, on January 20, 2013, Barack Obama, the nation’s first African-American president, was sworn-in for his second term as the President of the United States of America, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By this Honorable Body that February 2013 is hereby designated as “African-American History Month” in Albany County and all citizens of Albany County are encouraged to reflect upon the African-American contributions to the history and culture of the nation, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 2/11/13