

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-
RELATIVE TO NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION
FREDERICK DOUGLASS HERITAGE STATUE

By: Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member Ezra P. Scott, Jr.

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls has been awarded a determination of consistency from the Niagara River Greenway Commission for fabrication of Frederick Douglass commemorative statuary and accompanying interpretative plaza with an estimated cost of up to \$280,000; and

WHEREAS, the above project achieves the goal of promoting the city's rich heritage, as called for in the Niagara Falls 2009 Comprehensive Plan, Underground Railroad Heritage Management Plan, the Niagara River Greenway Plan, and to promote the heritage of the former Suspension Bridge Village; and

WHEREAS, although Frederick Douglas was born into slavery in 1818, he would escape that bondage in 1838 educating himself to become a successful author and publisher of his own newspaper, the North Star; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass also became a powerful international orator, speaking promoting the women's suffrage and against slavery, which he did at the First Congregational Church on Erie (Cleveland) Avenue, in 1856, near the Railroad Suspension Bridge, a major crossing point of the Underground Railroad for individuals seeking their basic human rights in Canada; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention to commemorate Frederick Douglass' connections to Niagara Falls and celebrate those connections by placing this permanent honor within the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, at an appropriate site to be determined in consultation with the commissioned artist; and

WHEREAS, in so doing pays tribute to Douglass as American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman here, in the City of Niagara Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, funding is available from Power Authority Greenway Fund for all related project expenses in an amount up totaling \$280,000; and

WHEREAS, this project requires no commitment of City General Funds to implement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that it hereby approves the allocation of \$280,000 of Greenway Funds for this project, and authorizes the Mayor to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same.

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Touma _____ Voccio _____