**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, SOUTH CAROLINA, THE UMBRELLA BODY OF THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY, AS THEY CELEBRATE THE FIRST‑EVER AFRICAN FESTIVAL TAGGED “AFRICAN DAY CELEBRATION 2018” AND TO APPLAUD THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO ADVANCE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF OUR GREAT STATE.

Whereas, on July 13 and 14, 2018, the African community will host its first African festival. The members of the House of Representatives of the Palmetto State deem it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to honor this celebration of culture and diversity; and

Whereas, the African community is a social, cultural, support, and development platform that was borne of a desire to promote and defend the welfare of the members of the African community who reside in South Carolina. The organization also seeks to help in the integration of its members into larger society; and

Whereas, founded in November 2017, the objectives of the platform include helping African‑Americans connect with their rich cultural heritage, serving as an avenue for the unification and celebration of who they are; and

Whereas, furthermore, the community seeks to foster peace and unity, promote and encourage the development of the African people in both infrastructure and human capacity, promote cultural values, as well as identifying the challenges of their people in their respective communities, and, thereafter, disseminating information to the State government for possible action where necessary; and

Whereas, the organization seeks to be a leader in cultural diversity, showcasing not only their culture, but collaborating with other cultures to ensure the creation and preservation of a united, culturally competent society in which we can all live peacefully; and

Whereas, the Organization of African Unity works in collaboration with the South Carolina Black Caucus, the Richland delegation, and the Columbia City Council to build a better society for everyone in South Carolina. The organization strives to assist legislators on all key policy issues affecting the citizens of our beautiful State. Another noble goal is their hope to use culture and language to increase diversity and instill oneness among people for the greater glory of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina are grateful to have such an organization tirelessly toiling to increase awareness and spread diversity and acceptance of all races, creeds, and backgrounds. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and recognize the Organization of African Unity, South Carolina, the umbrella body of the African community, as they celebrate the first‑ever African festival tagged “African Day Celebration 2018” and applaud the contributions that have been made to advance the cultural diversity of our great State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Organization of African Unity, South Carolina.

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