THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Proclamation

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2016

WHEREAS, September is recognized as African Heritage Month to commemorate African Union Day on September 9 which celebrates the anniversary of the signing of one of the founding documents of the African Union, the Sirte Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to numerous African businesses, over 16,000 residents and families who represent diverse cultures, linguistic and religious backgrounds that enrich the cultural fabric of our cosmopolitan global city; and

WHEREAS, Africans in the District, through their high educational attainment and strong entrepreneurial drive, have contributed significantly to the economic diversity and social vitality of the city, particularly in business, health, and service sectors; and

WHEREAS, African Heritage Month is an opportunity to increase awareness among the broader community and government organizations about key issues and priorities within the African community; namely healthcare access, business development, language access, institutional capacity building, and the need for collecting disaggregated demographic data:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim September 2016 in Washington, DC, as **"AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH".**

WE ARE WASHINGTON DC