Office of the Mayor
CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE

Proclamation

Whereas: THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE IS RECOGNIZED AS THE HOME OF THOMAS PAINE, WHO'S WRITINGS INSPIRED A NATION; AND

WHEREAS: THOMAS PAINE'S WRITINGS SUCH AS "COMMON SENSE" AND "THE CRISIS" HAVE LONG BEEN HELD AS THE INSPIRATIONAL BACKGROUND FOR THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN THE NEW WORLD; AND

WHEREAS: THOMAS PAINE WAS TRULY A LEADER IN THE THOUGHT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS, A MAN OF REASON AND A TRUE BELIEVER IN INDEPENDENT THOUGHT; AND

WHEREAS: THOMAS PAINE WAS THE ACKNOWLEDGED FIRST TO FORMALLY CALL FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY; AND

WHEREAS: IT IS TRULY FITTING THAT JUNE 8TH, THOMAS PAINE'S BIRTHDAY, HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO CELEBRATE THIS GREAT AMERICAN'S LIFE BY MAYORS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIMOTHY C. IDONI, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 8, 1996 AS:

"THOMAS PAINE DAY"

IN THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE AND ASK ALL RESIDENTS TO HONOR OUR NATIVE SON WHO'S WORDS LED OUR YOUNG NATION TO INDEPENDENCE AND EVENTUALLY GREATNESS.

DONE AT NEW ROCHELLE NEW YORK THIS 7TH DAY OF JUNE, 1996

Timothy C. Idoni

TIMOTHY C. IDONI MAYOR

Proclamation of the City of New Rochelle, New York

WHEREAS, Thomas Paine received from the State of New York, in 1784, a 300 acre farm on North Avenue in New Rochelle, for his services in the Revolution; and

WHEREAS, he lived on what is now Paine Avenue for two years on his farm between 1804 and 1806; and

WHEREAS, he was the spark that lit the fuse of Revolution with his work *Common Sense* in January, 1776, and closed 1776 with the essay that turned the tide in favor of the American forces with his *Crisis I*; and

WHEREAS, he wrote *Rights of Man* which became the bible of the Age of Democratic Revolutions around the world; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated how equality is the basis of democracy and just government,

WHEREAS, Thomas Paine fought for the abolition of slavery,

Whereas, he was the first to call for reparations; and

WHEREAS, New Rochelle has become the world center for scholarship, remembrance, and appreciation for Thomas Paine's life, works and legacy with the creation of the Thomas Paine New Rochelle Center;

THEREFORE, we recognize Thomas Paine's contributions to democracy and human rights by declaring that his death day of June 8th be known as Thomas Paine Day in New Rochelle, NY as of June 8, 2023, 214 years after his death, and henceforth.