

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert E. Wells, a merchant sailor from Cat Island in the Bahamas, settled in Boynton in 1890 where he and his wife, Elizabeth, raised one son, Harry

WHEREAS, in 1892, Robert and Elizabeth Wells helped found St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church. Officially established in 1900, St. Paul's AME is the oldest church in the city.

WHEREAS, in 1896, Mr. Wells, and other members of St. Paul's AME, successfully petitioned Dade County School Board to provide a school for Boynton's black/African American children. Originally called "Boynton Colored School", it later became known as "Poinciana Elementary."

WHEREAS, On April 14, 1920, Mr. Wells was a signatory of the document incorporating Boynton as a town; however, the land owned by him and the rest of the historic Heart of Boynton was not recognized in the incorporation and was called "Boynton Colored Town."

WHEREAS, in 1925, Mr. Wells platted the Robert Wells Subdivision. He built the main thoroughfare in the historic Heart of Boynton called Wells Avenue (now known as Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard) and built a home at number 416. In addition to selling land and building houses, Mr. Wells donated lots to those in need, including St. Paul's AME for the building of a church. In time, Wells Avenue became a thriving downtown area for the black/African American community.

Now, therefore, I, Steven B. Grant, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, proclaim February 7, 2017 as

Robert E. Wells Day

in honor of his contribution to the settlement and development of Boynton Beach.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, to be affixed at Boynton Beach, Florida, the 17th day of January, 2017.

Steven B. Grant, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk