

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT of GREATER CHICAGO RESOLUTION

SPONSORED *by the* BOARD of COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, March 25th commemorates the anniversary of Greek Independence Day, which honors the beginning of the War of Greek Independence (War) in 1821. On this day, the Greek community celebrates the bravery of its ancestors in their struggles and their relentless determination to ensure that Greek heritage, culture, and religion survived; and

WHEREAS, in 1453 with the seizure of Constantinople, Greece unwillingly became part of the Ottoman Empire. For 400 years thereafter, the people of Greece were forced to relinquish their customs, language, traditions, and most importantly, their freedom. While many Greeks fled to Western Europe, countless others who could not flee were subjected to many forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution at the Monastery of Agia Lavra and declared, “Eleftheria I Thanatos” (“Freedom or Death”), which became the cry of the War. This single act is credited with the inciting of the people of Greece to unite together to stage a revolution and defeat the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, while the Greek armies won many battles, by 1827 they were in danger of losing the War. It was then that Great Britain, France, and Russia interceded, assisting the Greeks with overpowering the Ottoman Empire forces; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 1829, the War of Greek Independence ended with the Treaty of Edirne (also known as the Treaty of Adrianople). With the signing of the Treaty of Edirne, the Ottoman Empire was forced to recognize Greece as an autonomous state; and

WHEREAS, in observance of Greek Independence Day, special events are held around the world, including parades, military processions, speeches, and festivals; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the Greek culture on modern civilizations are innumerable. Greek culture has influenced the world in every genre imaginable, from the fields of mathematics, astronomy, science, and medicine to literature, theatre, philosophy, and democracy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, on behalf of ourselves and our staff, do hereby recognize March 25th as Greek Independence Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.



DATED THIS 17th DAY of MARCH, 2022.

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

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