

WHEREAS, in recognition of Missouri as a powerful destination for authentic Underground Railroad history and in commemoration of all those involved in the Underground Railroad and the thousands of freedom seekers; and

WHEREAS, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for a more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of the inspiring efforts of the people of Missouri and all those from around the world who have committed themselves to document and share the Underground Railroad through the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is home to one of the most significant National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom sites at the Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area serves to engage citizens in its mission to document and share the enduring struggle for freedom in Missouri.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 2020 to be

## INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONTH

## in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.



Michael L. Parson

ATTEST: