



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 11

DATE OF MEETING: July 5, 2016

REQUESTED BY: Queen Quet, Chieftess

SHORT TITLE: Proclamation of July 30, 2016 through August 7, 2016 as Gullah/Geechee National Appreciation Week.



**PROCLAMATION
GULLAH/GEECHEE NATIONAL APPRECIATION WEEK**

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechee people are descendants of enslaved Africans who lived a labored life and in relative isolation in the coastal rice-growing regions of mainland North America during the antebellum period; and

WHEREAS, because of their isolation, the Gullah/Geechee people were able to develop and maintain the distinct Gullah language, traditions, food ways, material culture, music, and artistic expressions; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Congress passed legislation that was signed by President George W. Bush creating the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor to recognize the important contributions made to American culture and history by Gullah/Geechee people; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor runs through the Gullah/Geechee Nation; and

WHEREAS, this national heritage area embraces an area of approximately 12,000 square miles along the Atlantic coast extending from southeastern North Carolina to northern Florida; and

WHEREAS, the northern limit of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is Pender County; and

WHEREAS, during the first half of the eighteenth century the ancestors of the Gullah/Geechee people arrived in what is now Pender County and their labor was crucial to the development of some of the largest rice plantations in the Cape Fear region; and,

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechee people have continued to live in Pender County up to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural "Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week" took place in the City of Charleston, SC and this is Pender County's first year joining the celebration; and

WHEREAS, this year the theme is "A Celebration of Self-Determination"; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, The Pender County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim that Saturday, July 30 through Sunday, August 7, 2016 as **GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK** in Pender County and affirmatively recognizes the significant contributions that the Gullah/Geechee people have made to the history and culture of Pender County and to our state and nation; and supports the efforts to document and preserve historical and cultural assets of the Gullah/Geechee people in Pender County.

Adopted this the 5th day of July, 2016.

George R. Brown, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Melissa Long
Clerk to the Board