

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Malcolm X born as Malcolm Little (the fourth of eight children) to Louise, a homemaker, and Earl Little, a preacher who was also an active member of the local chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X was a minister, human rights activist and prominent black nationalist leader who served as a spokesman for the Nation of Islam during the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Malcolm X was arrested on charges of larceny and sentenced to 10 years in jail, he constantly read while incarcerated attempting to make up for the years of education he had missed by dropping out of high school; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X converted to the Nation of Islam before his release from prison in 1952; and

WHEREAS, due largely to his efforts, the Nation of Islam grew from a mere 400 members at the time he was released from prison in 1952 to 40,000 members by 1960; and

WHEREAS, he embarked on an extended trip through North Africa and the Middle East where he converted to traditional Islam and again changed his name, this time to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; and

WHEREAS right before he was assassinated Malcolm X was preaching on the possibility of peaceful resolutions to America's race problems; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X will be remembered for his contribution to society of underscoring the value of a truly free populace by demonstrating the great lengths to which human beings will go to secure their freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen M. Schewel, Mayor of the City of Durham, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 19, 2018, as

“MALCOLM X DAY”

in Durham, and hereby urge all citizens to hereby honor the late Malcolm X for his service and dedication in his committed work to the Islam community.

Witness my hand and the corporate seal of the City of Durham, North Carolina, this the 7th day of May 2018.

*Stephen M. Schewel
Mayor*