

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Polk County, North Carolina from September 11 through 23, 2018 – under the auspices of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) - the International Equestrian Federation; and

WHEREAS, the African Confederation of Equestrian Sports (ACES) is one of five continental associations recognized by the FEI; and

WHEREAS, National Federations governing equestrian sport in twenty (20) African nations are currently members of the FEI and ACES; and

WHEREAS, the horse industry contributes approximately \$39 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy, supporting 1.4 million jobs on a full-time basis (according to the American Horse Council); and

WHEREAS, the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games are projected to have over \$400 million of economic impact over a thirteen day run; and

WHEREAS, athletes, coaches, representatives of National Federations and equestrian sport aficionados from African nations will attend the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games; and

WHEREAS, the numerous contributions to equestrian knowledge, history, sport, breeding and tradition made by residents of African nations - as well as by persons of African heritage living throughout the world have largely been ignored, downplayed or obscured within all facets of the media; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tryon, Polk County and surrounding communities have a long and storied history in the support and promotion of equestrian activities – including showjumping, dressage, eventing, polo, horse racing, endurance riding and fox hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tryon, Polk County and surrounding communities hold a well-documented significance in the history of the African-American community and of the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, enslaved Africans brought knowledge to the Americas in many vital areas – including veterinary techniques, agriculture and animal husbandry; and

WHEREAS, horsemen of African ancestry (including South Carolina native, Anthony ‘The Black Deamon’ Hamilton – who won major races in the U.S. and in Europe) formed the backbone of the early horse racing industry in the United States – with African-American jockeys winning 15 of the first 28 runnings of the Kentucky Derby; and

WHEREAS, Polk County is proudly the home of Jefferson ‘Tot’ Goodwin, MFH – a renowned huntsman and the first African-American Master of Foxhounds; and


WHEREAS, a gala reception is planned for Sunday evening, September 16, 2018 at Harambee Farm - to honor and celebrate the participation of horses, riders, coaches and supporters from the African continent and from the African Diaspora in the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Nina Simone Project, the Tryon International Film Festival and Tryon Downtown Development Association leaderships, a day of targeted activities is planned for Monday, September 17, 2018 in the Town of Tryon - culminating with an evening concert at Rogers Park; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, I, J. Alan Peoples, Mayor of the Town of Tryon, North Carolina do hereby proclaim Sunday the 16th Day of September and Monday, the 17th Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen as

The Days of the African Equestrian

Approved the 21st Day of August, 2018.


J. Alan Peoples
Mayor of Tryon, North Carolina

In Witness, Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Tryon to be affixed at the Tryon Town Hall, North Carolina, United States of America this 21st Day of August, 2018.

