

'MIFFLIN WISTAR GIBBS DAY'

WHEREAS *Mifflin Wistar Gibbs was elected as a City Councillor in Victoria on November 19, 1866, becoming the first Black elected official in Canada;*

WHEREAS *Mr. Gibbs had been active with the Abolition movement in the United States and played an influential role in the immigration of several hundred Black people to Victoria and the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia beginning in 1858, seeking greater opportunities and freedom from the racial discrimination that prevailed in the United States;*

WHEREAS *Mr. Gibbs was naturalized as a British subject in 1861, worked as a merchant, resided with his wife Maria Ann Gibbs in a home at Michigan and Menzies Streets in James Bay, where their five children were born, and ran for public office several times prior to his election to City Council in 1866;*

WHEREAS *Mr. Gibbs was re-elected in the 1867 and 1868 municipal elections, serving on City Council for three years before returning to the United States, during the Reconstruction period that followed the American Civil War, later being elected as the first Black elected judge in the United States in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1873 and serving as American Consul to Madagascar from 1897 to 1901;*

WHEREAS *The contribution of Mifflin Wistar Gibbs reflects the diverse cultural heritage of Victoria and the history of Black people in the city, province and country, expanding our understanding of Canada's history as we approach the sesquicentennial in 2017;*

NOW, THEREFORE *I do hereby proclaim the day of November 19th, 2016 as "**MIFFLIN WISTAR GIBBS DAY**" in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA**, the **TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS**.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I hereunto set my hand this 27th day of October, Two Thousand and Sixteen*

**LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sponsored by:
Councillor Isitt**