



Office of the Mayor Proclamation

In honor of
THOMAS GARRETT

August 21, 2012

WHEREAS, Harriett Tubman escaped slavery and became a conductor on the Underground Railroad and an eloquent and effective speaker on behalf of the movement to end slavery; and,

WHEREAS, The Harriett Tubman Historical Society in Wilmington Delaware is an advocate for the preservation and recognition of the abolitionist, Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad in Delaware; and,

WHEREAS, Thomas Garrett was known as one of the most active and influential Stationmasters in the Underground Railroad, moved to Wilmington Delaware to pursue his struggle against slavery; and,

WHEREAS, At great personal harm, Mr. Garret's home openly served as the last station in the slave State of Delaware before passing into the free States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett's birthday is honored every August 21st; and,

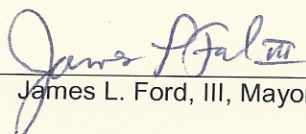
WHEREAS, this year we celebrate Tom Garrett's birthday with the recognition of the courageous escape of a party of slaves from Maryland: William Thomas Cope, John Boice Grey, Henry Boice, Isaac White, Thomas Sipple and his wife Mary Ann; Henry Burkett and his wife Elizabeth; John Purnell and Hale Burton, and their journey through Delaware to freedom across the Delaware Bay; and,

WHEREAS, in the latter part of January, these bondmen escaped in a borrowed skiff and despite hazardous conditions, made their way from a beach near Lewes Delaware to a beach near Cape May New Jersey and on to freedom in Philadelphia with the help of an oyster boat captain.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the pathway to freedom was a dangerous and a perilous one but for the bravery and courage of families and their friends who risked their lives to preserve a universal virtue and principal of every human being's right to be free.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, America's humanity is not only in the plight to freedom by families of the Underground Railroad but also enshrined in the Declaration of Independence: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*"

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, I, James L. Ford III, Mayor of the City of Lewes, recognize August 21, 2012 as Thomas Garrett's birthday and honor him for his commitment to the abolishment of slavery with the recognition of William Thomas Cope, John Boice Grey, Henry Boice, Isaac White, Thomas Sipple and his wife Mary Ann; Henry Burkett and his wife Elizabeth; John Purnell and Hale Burton, in the book, *The Underground Rail Road* by William Still that memorializes their courage within its pages.


James L. Ford, III, Mayor

Dated: August 13, 2012

