

Proclamation



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

In Honor of Dr. Walter Rodney

- Whereas,** Dr. Walter Rodney was a preeminent Pan African scholar and through his scholarship and classic work, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, helped millions around the world understand that slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, because of their abhorrent barbarism, magnitude and organized nature were crimes against humanity, and are among the major underpinnings of racism, poverty, underdevelopment, social exclusion, marginalization and economic disparities; and,
- Whereas,** He worked with The Institute of the Black World in Atlanta and helped us all to recall and profoundly regret the untold suffering and evils inflicted upon millions of men, women and children as a result of the transatlantic slave trade, genocide, colonialism, apartheid and other tragedies; and,
- Whereas,** Dr. Rodney was a key organizer of the historic Sixth Pan African Congress, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, a Congress that reaffirmed the right of African peoples to self-determination and called for working peoples throughout the world to unite and take all possible measures to ensure that the total liberation of the African continent could be realized; and,
- Whereas,** He struggled for all to recognize the consequences of past and contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as serious challenges to global peace and security, human dignity and the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms of many people in the world, in particular Africans and people of African descent; and,
- Whereas,** Dr. Rodney strongly rejected any doctrine of racial superiority, along with theories which attempt to determine the existence of so-called distinct human races; and,
- Whereas,** He was one of the most committed and progressive intellectual of African descent who worked tirelessly to affirm the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and promoted the view that all individuals are born equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies; and,
- Whereas,** Dr. Rodney stressed that equality must be protected as a matter of the highest priority and recognized the duty of public officials to take prompt, decisive and appropriate measures with a view to eliminating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Now, Therefore, I, Ivory Lee Young, Jr., a member of the Atlanta City Council, do hereby proclaim this 23rd day of March 2004 as Dr. Walter Rodney Day in the City of Atlanta on the occasion of the formal opening of the Walter Rodney Papers, that were donated by the Rodney family, to the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE
HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND
CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY
OF ATLANTA TO BE AFFIXED

Ivory Lee Young, Jr.
Council District 3