MICHAEL BENJAMIN aka MIKABEN

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks, and invents." ~ Ludwig Van Beethoven

WHEREAS, MICHAEL BENJAMIN aka MIKABEN was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1981 and discovered an early passion for music; and

WHEREAS, MIKABEN is a versatile and eclectic artist with a wide range of talents as a writer, composer, producer, singer in the languages of Creole, French, English, and Spanish, plays several instruments such as guitar, keyboard, bass, and drums, and excels in many different musical genres such as Compas, Zouk, Dancehall, Reggae, R&B, and Hip-Hop; and

WHEREAS, MIKABEN participated in the annual Christmas show hosted by Telemax and launched his first song in 1999 titled 'Nwel Tristes', recorded and released his first album titled 'VWAYAJ' in 2000, and performed on international stages throughout the world including at the Olympia and Zenith in Paris, the Cultural Center of the Ivory Coast, the Hoogstraten Festival in Belgium, Joe's Pub in New York City, and the Miami Compas Festival; and

WHEREAS, MIKABEN had his song 'Ou Pati' chosen for the Haitian Troubadour project, created the successful group Krezi Mizik, and inspired the creation of the poignant Tisouf Foundation after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti to bring joy to children.

WHEREAS, *MIKABEN* is the son of famous singer Lionel Benjamin and has collaborated with many artists including Carimi, T-Vice, Leila Chicot, Kreyol La, Belo, Stanley Georges, Alan Cave, Izolan, Olivier Duret, J. Perry, and Wesli.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Mayor and Commission of the *City of North Miami Beach, Florida* do proclaim December 25, 2021 as *MICHAEL BENJAMIN* aka *MIKABEN DAY* for his musical accomplishments and achievements and wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

Mayor Anthony F. DeFilly

Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond

Commissioner Michael Joseph

Vice Mayor Fortuna Smukler

Commissioner Daniela Jean

Commissioner Barbara Kramer

Commissioner Paule Villard