

RESOLUTION No. 2019-

SUSPENSION BRIDGE VILLAGE RESOLUTION

BY:

Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Ezra P. Scott, Jr.
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member Christopher Voccio

WHEREAS, the Village of Suspension Bridge--bordered by the Historic 13th Street and the Niagara Gorge East to West and College Ave to Pierce Avenue North to South--and the commerce that it attracted led it to be one of the two villages that made up the Incorporation of the City of the City of Niagara Falls, New York in 1892; and

WHEREAS, the first Maid of the Mist was built and launched in an eddy at the terminus of a road cut in the gorge wall which began at the top of the present-day stairs to State Parks Great Gorge Railway Trail; and

WHEREAS, Holman Walsh won a Kite Flying contest when he flew his kite from Canada to the United States shore and the string was used to draw the cables to begin the construction of first Suspension Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the famous Iron Basket, designed and built by Theodore Hulett, was used to shuttle passengers, tools and equipment across the Niagara Gorge; and

WHEREAS, bridge builders Charles Ellet and Theodore Hulett engineered a crude wooden bridge that provided the first Pedestrian and Carriage Traffic between the US and Canada; and

WHEREAS, John A. Roebling--who built the Brooklyn Bridge--had the courage and know-how to build the world's first practical Railroad Suspension Bridge where the Whirlpool Bridge now stands; and

WHEREAS, "Mammoth" Stockyards traded thousands of cattle, horses, swine, and sheep on a monthly basis; and

WHEREAS, the Suspension Bridge Railroad Station handled as many as 47 trains and 2,000 passengers a day; and

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WHEREAS, Suspension Bridge Village had as many as 15 hotels to cater to tourists and Cattlemen, some of them as elegant as any in the world; and

WHEREAS, Freedom Seekers crossed the Niagara Gorge via the Suspension Bridge ... Sometimes led by Underground Railroad Conductor Harriet Tubman; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phillip Skinner ran a school for the *Colored, Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children* and was active in the Abolitionist movement; and

WHEREAS, thrill seekers that walked across the gorge on flimsy cables and challenged the Class 6 Rapids of the Whirlpool drew crowds in the 10s of thousands; and

WHEREAS, the Niagara Gorge and the Van Horn, Manning and Buttery elevators drew thousands of tourists in any given year; and

WHEREAS, DeVeaux Woods State Park was a well know school of Orphan Children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Niagara Falls City Council hereby proclaims the official name for the lands of the Village of Suspension Bridge, as defined by the 1891 Town of Niagara Survey Map be officially recognized as the Suspension Bridge Village Heritage Area and shall be informally recognized as Suspension Bridge Village.

On this Day____ in the Month of_____ in the Year_____