

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Telephone: (716) 286-4310

September 9, 2021

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

RE: Placement of Memorial Marker for Charlotte Dett

Council Members:

The newly emerging history of Charlotte Dett has sparked the interests of scholars and has raised questions of how might she be recognized within the city that her leadership and activism flourished. Miss Dett was born in 1862 in Drummondville (now Niagara Falls), Canada. She and her family relocated to Niagara Falls, New York in 1893 where she opened a 17 room boarding house at 362 2nd Street (now the Sheraton parking lot).

Miss Dett believed in principles of education, community, activism and leadership which led her to lead a great life of activism and civic leadership promoting equal voting and political participation, racial unity, equity and fairness. She also supported the upward progression of African American women, and operating a boarding house that was one of the few places in Niagara Falls a Black individual would be able to stay at the time. Additionally, one of Charlotte Dett's most concrete and long-lasting contributions to the Niagara Falls community and the African American community, in particular, was helping to establish the Niagara Community Center.

In recognition of Charlotte Dett's many contributions, it is proposed that a marker celebrating her life be placed in the City of Niagara Falls. The marker, which would be privately funded, would be placed on Old Falls Street near the Arcade at the Falls and Rainforest Café, which is proximate to where her boarding house was once located. It is anticipated that this will add to the connectivity of the area which will hopefully make for a more enjoyable and informative walk down Old Falls Street.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to implement the same?

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. RESTAINO
Mayor

Kennedy _____ Soda _____ Spanbauer _____ Voccio _____ Tompkins _____