

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL
DECLARING JULY 22, 2022 AS GREEN FLAKE, HARK WALES, OSCAR SMITH,
AND JANE ELIZABETH MANNING DAY IN SALT LAKE COUNTY, UTAH**

WHEREAS, July 24th, 1847, is an important day in Utah history and the history of the United States, marking the day that Brigham Young and a determined company of Mormon Pioneers entered the Great Salt Lake Valley; and

WHEREAS, this first group of pioneers was the vanguard of one of the greatest treks in American History, pulling handcarts or driving wagons with oxen or horses; and

WHEREAS, these thousands of pioneers carried a firm commitment to America's belief in freedom of religion as they slowly trudged across the plains to a vast desert landscape that became known as the Utah Territory; and

WHEREAS, these pioneers came from many nations to create a new life and exemplified courage, foresight, and faith that continues to inspire modern-day pioneers; and

WHEREAS, there are many monuments commemorating the pioneer leaders and courageous individuals who made their trek across the plains to a new home; and

WHEREAS, there is now to be a new memorial monument commemorating the sacrifice, hardships, and contributions to the early Utah territory of both free and enslaved African American pioneers who came with those early groups; and

WHEREAS, this new monument and the stories it represents will serve as a place of learning, reflection, and healing in its prominent location at the This is the Place State Park; and

WHEREAS, this new monument will more specifically honor Green Flake, Hark Wales, and Oscar Smith, the first of the vanguard company to came into the valley as enslaved pioneers and Jane Elizabeth Manning James; and

WHEREAS, Jane Elizabeth Manning James did not arrive into the valley with the vanguard company, she was the first documented free African American woman to come to the Utah Territory, arriving with her family as a Mormon pioneer;

WHEREAS, these free and enslaved pioneers lived in poverty and often did not have the barest essentials for survival, yet they persevered in the face of great trials and obstacles; and

WHEREAS, there are many journal entries documenting the grace and charity that this faithful, strong, and courageous group of pioneers endured, and demonstrating how they gave of themselves, their food storage, and their service to their fellow pioneers and to their God; and

WHEREAS, these stories deserve to be told and retold in recognition of the incredible contributions given by these pioneers to the many communities that they helped to build; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Salt Lake County Council that July 22, 2022, shall be known and honored as Green Flake, Hark Wales, Oscar Smith, and Jane Elizabeth Manning Day in Salt Lake County, Utah. The Council further proclaims that July 22, 2022, shall be a day of remembrance for the African American pioneers who entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, as well as day of honor for their families and their descendants who have given so much to our many communities in Utah. May their legacy and stories for ever be revered in our histories and taught to our children and their families for generations to come.

SIGNED AND PROCLAIMED this 19th day of July, 2022.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____

Laurie Stringham, Chair