

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Media Contact**

Boston Ethiopia Week  
info@bosethioweek.org  
+1-617-500-7456

## **BOSTON ETHIOPIA WEEK**

### **Ethiopian Flag Raised in Boston as Mayor Proclaims “Ethiopia Week”**

September 11, 2016, Boston, Massachusetts – Boston Ethiopia Week (BEW) announces today that The Honorable Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, has proclaimed September 11-17, 2016 as “Ethiopia Week.” The Mayor’s proclamation celebrates the Ethiopian New Year of 2009 and recognizes the contributions of the city’s Ethiopian Americans. The Ethiopian flag was raised this morning at City Hall to mark the occasion.

Mayor Walsh first proclaimed Ethiopia Week in 2015 for September 6-12, featuring the first-ever Ethiopian flag raising ceremony at City Hall. Ethiopia Week is held during the week of Ethiopian New Year, which falls on September 11 this year.

BEW was founded in 2015 with a vision of becoming an annual weeklong celebration of Ethiopia and Ethiopian Americans. It aims to provide educational, entertainment and cultural value while helping increase the visibility and civic participation of the Greater Boston Area’s Ethiopian Americans.

“Boston’s active Ethiopian American community has established several small businesses, founded various community and religious organizations, forms growing populations in the city’s universities and contributes to the advancement of U.S.-Ethiopia economic and cultural relations,” said Mayor Walsh in his 2016 proclamation.

The Ethiopian flag will be at half-mast with the U.S. and Massachusetts flags in honor of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Out of solidarity in remembering this solemn anniversary, BEW will not hold festivities at City Hall.

“I am proud of the achievements of our community and am excited by what is yet to come,” said social entrepreneur and Massachusetts resident Samuel M. Gebru, founder of BEW. “I thank Mayor Walsh for his support of Boston’s Ethiopian Americans and look forward to raising the level of participation, leadership and solidarity in our community.”

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*See next page for Mayor Walsh’s proclamation.*

# The City of Boston

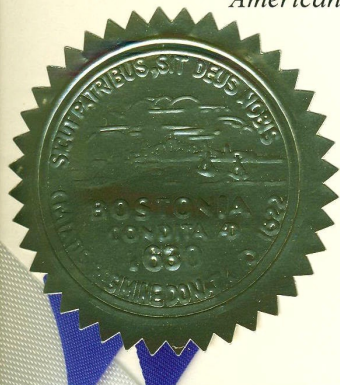


## PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** Ethiopia, which is in the year 2008, follows its own ancient calendar consisting of 13 months with 12 months of 30 days and the 13<sup>th</sup> month of five days, or six on a leap year. The Ethiopian New Year, known as Enkutatash, will begin on September 11, 2016, which is Meskerem 1, 2009 in Ethiopia; and
- Whereas:** Ethiopia is the oldest continuously surviving country in Africa and among the oldest in the world, with over 5,000 years of civilization and known as the cradle of mankind and the birthplace of coffee; and
- Whereas:** Ethiopia, the only country in Africa to have never been colonized, serves as the political and diplomatic capital of Africa and home of the African Union; and
- Whereas:** Boston's active Ethiopian American community has established several small businesses, founded various community and religious organizations, forms growing populations in the city's universities and contributes to the advancement of U.S.-Ethiopia economic and cultural relations; and
- Whereas:** The City of Boston prides itself on having a long history of welcoming all new Bostonians and Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, provides our city an opportunity to learn more about an important community that has made Boston home; now
- Therefore,** I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2016 to be

## **Ethiopia Week**

*in the City of Boston. I urge my fellow Bostonians to join me in recognizing our city's Ethiopian Americans and to wish them "Melkam Addis Amet" (Happy New Year)!*



  
MAYOR