

**52:9A-17 & 52:9A-18**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2020                    **CHAPTER:** 91

**NJSA:** 52:9A-17 & 52:9A-18 (Recognizes Howell House in Cape May as Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.)

**BILL NO:** A3201                    (Substituted for S2585)

**SPONSOR(S)** Carol A. Murphy and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 2/25/2020

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

**SENATE:** State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2020

**SENATE:** 8/27/2020

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 9/17/2020

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (Assembly Committee Substitute for A3201 enacted) Yes

**A3201**

**INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**S2585**

**INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** No

**SENATE:** Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Murphy cuts ribbon on museum Murphy bestows honor on Cape May Tubman museum during ribbon cutting and tour." The Press of Atlantic City (NJ), September 18, 2020: 3A.

"New museum honors life of Harriet Tubman Harriet Tubman." South Jersey Times (NJ), September 18, 2020: 001.

RWH/CL

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 91, *approved September 17, 2020*  
Assembly Committee Substitute for  
Assembly, No. 3201

1 **AN ACT** recognizing the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape  
2 May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey  
3 and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised  
4 Statutes.

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, The Macedonia Baptist Church was officially  
7 recognized as a Baptist church by the West New Jersey Baptist  
8 Association on December 23, 1895 and was organized to  
9 provide a place for African-American residents of the city of  
10 Cape May to practice their faith together; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The Macedonia Baptist Church continues to meet today  
12 in its historic church building, part of which dates back to 1799,  
13 on the corner of Lafayette and Franklin Streets, in a  
14 neighborhood that contains most of Cape May's civic  
15 institutions, and that was the core of the city's African-  
16 American society for much of the 20th century; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Next to the church stands one of Cape May's oldest  
18 houses, the Howell House, which was built in 1850 and willed  
19 to the church in 1909 by its former owner, Philadelphia Quaker  
20 Joseph Howell, and has been used as a parsonage until only a  
21 few decades ago; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The house has been acknowledged as "a contributing  
23 resource to the Cape May National Historic Landmark district,"  
24 and in 2012, was declared one of New Jersey's top-10  
25 endangered historic structures by Preservation New Jersey, a  
26 Statewide private historic preservation organization; and

27 **WHEREAS**, On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with  
28 developers Robert and Zack Mullock that permitted the  
29 Mullocks to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring  
30 Harriet Tubman, which opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a  
31 date recognized as "Juneteenth" to commemorate the  
32 announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger of  
33 federal orders that enslaved persons in Texas were free; and

34 **WHEREAS**, The museum showcases Harriet Tubman's role as a  
35 champion of civil rights and the time she spent in Cape May in  
36 the 1850s earning income to support her efforts in the  
37 Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses designed to  
38 help African-American slaves escape into free territories; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for  
40 many on the Underground Railroad and the significance of  
41 Harriet Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of  
42 people, supported by her time in Cape May, it is altogether

1 fitting and proper that this State recognize the Howell House on  
2 Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the Harriet  
3 Tubman Museum in New Jersey; now, therefore,

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. The Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New  
9 Jersey is recognized as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.

10

11 2. State and other public funds shall not be used for producing,  
12 purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established  
13 under section 1 this act, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
14 Legislature as this bill). The Governor, or the designee thereof, is  
15 authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from  
16 private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the  
17 Governor, or the designee thereof, for the costs associated with  
18 producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation  
19 established under section 1 of this act and entering into agreements  
20 related thereto, with private sources, including but not limited to  
21 non-governmental, non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or  
22 institutions. Work shall not proceed and funding shall not be  
23 accepted by the Governor, or the designee thereof, until an  
24 agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the  
25 costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and  
26 maintaining the signs.

27

28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

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33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Recognizes Howell House in Cape May as Harriet Tubman  
Museum in New Jersey.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3201

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Zwicker**

**SYNOPSIS**

Recognizes Howell House in Cape May as Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/25/2020)**

A3201 MURPHY, JOHNSON

2

1 AN ACT recognizing the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape  
2 May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey  
3 and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised  
4 Statutes.

5  
6 WHEREAS, The Macedonia Baptist Church was officially recognized  
7 as a Baptist church by the West New Jersey Baptist Association on  
8 December 23, 1895 and was organized to provide a place for  
9 African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice  
10 their faith together; and

11 WHEREAS, The Macedonia Baptist Church continues to meet today in  
12 its historic church building, part of which dates back to 1799, on the  
13 corner of Lafayette and Franklin Streets, in a neighborhood that  
14 contains most of Cape May's civic institutions, and that was the  
15 core of the city's African-American society for much of the 20th  
16 century; and

17 WHEREAS, Next to the church stands one of Cape May's oldest  
18 houses, the Howell House, which was built in 1850 and willed to  
19 the church in 1909 by its former owner, Philadelphia Quaker Joseph  
20 Howell, and has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades  
21 ago; and

22 WHEREAS, The house has been acknowledged as "a contributing  
23 resource to the Cape May National Historic Landmark district," and  
24 in 2012, was declared one of New Jersey's top-10 endangered  
25 historic structures by Preservation New Jersey, a Statewide private  
26 historic preservation organization; and

27 WHEREAS, On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with  
28 developers Robert and Zack Mullock that will permit the Mullocks  
29 to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet  
30 Tubman, with an expected completion date in 2020; and

31 WHEREAS, Plans for the museum indicate that it will showcase Harriet  
32 Tubman's role as a champion of civil rights and the time she spent  
33 in Cape May in the 1850s earning income to support her efforts in  
34 the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses designed to  
35 help African-American slaves escape into free territories; and

36 WHEREAS, Given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for many  
37 on the Underground Railroad and the significance of Harriet  
38 Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of people,  
39 supported by her time in Cape May, it is altogether fitting and  
40 proper that this State recognize the Howell House on Lafayette  
41 Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in  
42 New Jersey; now, therefore,

43  
44 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
45 of New Jersey:

46  
47 1. The Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New  
48 Jersey is recognized as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.

1       2. This act shall take effect upon the first day the museum is  
2 open to the general public.

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STATEMENT

6

7       This bill designates the Howell House on Lafayette Street in  
8 Cape May, New Jersey the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman  
9 Museum.

10       The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1895 to provide  
11 a place for African-American residents of the city of Cape May to  
12 practice their faith. The congregation continues to meet today in its  
13 historic church building on Lafayette Street, in a neighborhood that  
14 was the core of the city's African-American society for much of the  
15 20th century. Next to the church is one of Cape May's oldest  
16 houses, the Howell House, given to the church in 1909 by Joseph  
17 Howell, which has been used as a parsonage until only a few  
18 decades ago. On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with  
19 developers Robert and Zack Mullock that will permit them to  
20 renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet  
21 Tubman, with an expected completion date in 2020.

22       The museum will showcase Harriet Tubman's role as a champion  
23 of civil rights and the time she spent in Cape May in the 1850s  
24 earning income to support her efforts in the Underground Railroad.  
25 Thus, given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for many on  
26 the Underground Railroad, and the significance of Harriet  
27 Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of people,  
28 supported by her time in Cape May, and given the historical  
29 significance of the Macedonia Baptist Church area to the African-  
30 American community, it is appropriate for this State to designate  
31 the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as  
32 the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

33       Consistent with current practice, the bill provides that State or  
34 other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or  
35 erecting any signs bearing the designation provided for in the bill.  
36 The bill authorizes the Governor, or the designee thereof, to receive  
37 financial assistance from non-profit, non-governmental, and private  
38 sources to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs  
39 bearing the designation.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY, No. 3201

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 26, 2020

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably the Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3201.

This substitute designates the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1895 to provide a place for African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice their faith. The congregation continues to meet today in its historic church building on Lafayette Street, in a neighborhood that was the core of the city's African-American society for much of the 20th century. Next to the church is one of Cape May's oldest houses, the Howell House, given to the church in 1909 by Joseph Howell, which has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades ago. On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with developers Robert and Zack Mullock permitting them to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet Tubman, which opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a date recognized as "Juneteenth" to commemorate the announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger of federal orders that enslaved persons in Texas were free.

The museum showcases Harriet Tubman's role as a champion of civil rights and the time she spent in Cape May in the 1850s earning income to support her efforts in the Underground Railroad. Thus, given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for many on the Underground Railroad, and the significance of Harriet Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of people, supported by her time in Cape May, and given the historical significance of the Macedonia Baptist Church area to the African-American community, it is appropriate for this State to designate the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

Consistent with current practice, the substitute provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs bearing the designation provided for in the substitute. The substitute authorizes the Governor, or the designee



thereof, to receive financial assistance from non-profit, non-governmental, and private sources to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs bearing the designation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 3201**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 22, 2020

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3201.

This substitute designates the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1895 to provide a place for African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice their faith. The congregation continues to meet today in its historic church building on Lafayette Street, in a neighborhood that was the core of the city's African-American society for much of the 20th century. Next to the church is one of Cape May's oldest houses, the Howell House, given to the church in 1909 by Joseph Howell, which has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades ago. On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with developers Robert and Zack Mullock permitting them to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet Tubman, which opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a date recognized as "Juneteenth" to commemorate the announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger of federal orders that enslaved persons in Texas were free.

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thereof, to receive financial assistance from non-profit, non-governmental, and private sources to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs bearing the designation.

Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly No. 3201 is identical to Senate Committee Substitute for Senate No. 2585.

# SENATE, No. 2585

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RONALD L. RICE**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates Howell House in Cape May as Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2020)

1   **AN ACT** recognizing the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape  
2       May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey  
3       and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised  
4       Statutes.  
5  
6   **WHEREAS**, The Macedonia Baptist Church was officially recognized  
7       as a Baptist church by the West New Jersey Baptist Association on  
8       December 23, 1895 and was organized to provide a place for  
9       African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice  
10      their faith together; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, The Macedonia Baptist Church continues to meet today in  
12      its historic church building, part of which dates back to 1799, on the  
13      corner of Lafayette and Franklin Streets, in a neighborhood that  
14      contains most of Cape May’s civic institutions, and that was the  
15      core of the city’s African-American society for much of the 20th  
16      century; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, Next to the church stands one of Cape May’s oldest  
18      houses, the Howell House, which was built in 1850 and willed to  
19      the church in 1909 by its former owner, Philadelphia Quaker Joseph  
20      Howell, and has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades  
21      ago; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, The house has been acknowledged as “a contributing  
23      resource to the Cape May National Historic Landmark district,” and  
24      in 2012, was declared one of New Jersey’s top-10 endangered  
25      historic structures by Preservation New Jersey, a Statewide private  
26      historic preservation organization; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with  
28      developers Robert and Zack Mullock that will permit the Mullocks  
29      to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet  
30      Tubman, with an expected completion date in 2020; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, Plans for the museum indicate that it will showcase  
32      Harriet Tubman’s role as a champion of civil rights and the time  
33      she spent in Cape May in the 1850s earning income to support her  
34      efforts in the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses  
35      designed to help African-American slaves escape into free  
36      territories; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, In addition to fighting for abolition and becoming a Civil  
38      War heroine, Harriet Tubman spent her summers between 1850 and  
39      1852 in Cape May; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, Given New Jersey’s role in allowing safe passage for  
41      many on the Underground Railroad and the significance of Harriet  
42      Tubman’s contribution to the freedom of dozens of people,  
43      supported by her time in Cape May, it is altogether fitting and  
44      proper that this State recognize the Howell House on Lafayette  
45      Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in  
46      New Jersey; now, therefore,



SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 2585**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 22, 2020

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2585.

This substitute designates the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1895 to provide a place for African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice their faith. The congregation continues to meet today in its historic church building on Lafayette Street, in a neighborhood that was the core of the city's African-American society for much of the 20th century. Next to the church is one of Cape May's oldest houses, the Howell House, given to the church in 1909 by Joseph Howell, which has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades ago. On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with developers Robert and Zack Mullock permitting them to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet Tubman, which opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a date recognized as "Juneteenth" to commemorate the announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger of federal orders that enslaved persons in Texas were free.

The museum showcases Harriet Tubman's role as a champion of civil rights and the time she spent in Cape May in the 1850s earning income to support her efforts in the Underground Railroad. Thus, given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for many on the Underground Railroad, and the significance of Harriet Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of people, supported by her time in Cape May, and given the historical significance of the Macedonia Baptist Church area to the African-American community, it is appropriate for this State to designate the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum.

Consistent with current practice, the substitute provides that State or other public funds are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs bearing the designation provided for in the substitute. The substitute authorizes the Governor, or the designee

thereof, to receive financial assistance from non-profit, non-governmental, and private sources to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting any signs bearing the designation.

Senate Committee Substitute for Senate No. 2585 is identical to Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly No. 3201.



# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Designating the Howell House as the Official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum

09/17/2020

**CAPE MAY** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation (A3201), which designates the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum. The Governor participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony today for the museum. The Howell House is owned by the Macedonia Baptist Church. In 2018, the church gave Robert, Zach, and Cynthia Mullock permission to renovate the house into a museum honoring Harriet Tubman. Harriet Tubman has a special connection to Cape May, having spent a significant amount of time during the 1850s in the area, gathering funds to support her work through the Underground Railroad. The museum will inform current and future generations of the great sacrifices and efforts that Tubman made on her mission to save enslaved African-Americans and bring them to the free North. The museum opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a date recognized as “Juneteenth” and recently designated an official State holiday in New Jersey.

"It gives me great pride in announcing that the Howell House in Cape May is now the official Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey," **said Governor Murphy**. "Harriett Tubman's extraordinary efforts helped establish and run the Underground Railroad, and her fearless actions during her lifetime led to the freedom of many. I am proud of the role that New Jersey and Cape May were able to play in her mission to free Black men, women, and children from slavery. This is just one small step in acknowledging the plight and struggle of the Black community, and we will continue to recognize and fight against all forms of racism."

"Harriet Tubman was arguably the most well-known activist and abolitionist in US history. Her intellect, determination and iron will saved the lives of many enslaved Americans. She is our North Star. When we fight for equality, we think of her name," **said Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs**. "This museum, which is dedicated to her legacy, will now officially ensure that her name will forever be revered and honored in New Jersey history."

"Our work here in Cape May for the last two years has been dedicated to preserving and creating a space worthy of magnifying Harriet Tubman's life, and the life of so many luminaries who worked with her or followed in her footsteps in the struggle for racial and social justice." **said Cynthia Mullock, Executive Director of the Harriet Tubman Museum**. "Among our many supporters was the Murphy administration. In particular, we want to thank Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Secretary of State Tahesha Way, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey State Historical Commission, and the grant programs through the Cape May County Department of Tourism, as well as the State's neighborhood preservation program."

Primary sponsors of A3201 include Assemblymembers Carol A. Murphy, Gordon M. Johnson, and Antwan L. McClellan, and Senators Ronald L. Rice, Michael L. Testa, and Shirley K. Turner.

"Harriet Tubman was a hero who not only freed herself, but returned to the South over a dozen times to lead at least 70 other slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Despite personal health problems and the threat of enslavement or death if caught, she courageously risked her own life in order to rescue others from slavery," **said Assemblywoman Carol Murphy and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson in a joint statement**. "It is a source of pride for our state that such an inspirational figure spent time in Cape May, earning money to support her Underground Railroad operations. Cape May is further connected to these historical efforts with countless escaped slaves having passed through the town on their way to freedom and the area having served as a center of abolitionist activity. This museum will honor her legacy and recognize our state's connection to an important movement, while simultaneously preserving this historic building. It's only fitting that we recognize Howell House as the official New Jersey Harriet Tubman Museum."

"I am excited and proud that Harriet Tubman is being honored and that there is a dedicated place here in New Jersey where people can go to learn more about this extraordinary woman who truly is an American hero", **said Assemblyman Antwan McClellan**. "The more we learn about the Underground Railroad and the dangers faced, the more we understand the heroic, brave actions of the men and women who worked to abolish slavery."

"Harriet Tubman was fiercely committed to equality for all people, black or white, male or female," **said Senator Michael Testa**. "Through her tireless persistence, this determined woman helped bring about two historic society advancements that changed American society forever – she personally helped lead dozens of southern slaves to freedom in the north, and she was instrumental in the women's suffrage movement."

"Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist, a hero and a conductor of the Underground Railroad that ran through New Jersey. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. Ever since they began renovating the Howell House, there has been mounting excitement around the new museum, even being highlighted as one of the most anticipated museum openings of 2020 by the Smithsonian Magazine," **said Senator Shirley Turner**. "On the date of their opening, the formal designation is a small token of our gratitude for the work their team has done to memorialize Harriet's time in New Jersey, and educate us on its significance."