

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JUNE 19th AS COUNTY OBSERVANCE OF
JUNETEENTH

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 2, 2021

WHEREAS, the inherently inhumane institution of slavery was legally practiced in the United States since before its inception in 1776 and was a significant driver of our young nation's cultural and economic success; and

WHEREAS, while the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution which ended slavery and involuntary servitude was signed on February of 1865, it was not ratified by the states until December of that same year; and

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation declaring that "*all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;*" was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, the news of emancipation did not quickly reach all enslaved people across the United States, particularly those states under Confederate control; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, over 2,000 Union soldiers arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, at which time, the Union army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state were free by executive decree; and

WHEREAS, newly freed Black people in Texas came to recognize and celebrate June 19th as "Juneteenth"; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day", "Jubilee Day", "Liberation Day" and "Emancipation Day", is recognized as a holiday in 47 states; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is not a nationally or federally observed holiday; and

WHEREAS, annual observance of Juneteenth will provide residents and employees of Washtenaw County an opportunity to celebrate the freedom and humanity of Black Americans, reflect on the history, impact and continuing legacy of chattel slavery in the United States, honor those who were enslaved and acknowledge their profound economic and cultural contributions to our society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners recognizes Juneteenth as a day of celebration and recognition to honor the physical freedom of enslaved people in America;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners formally recognizes Juneteenth observance in Washtenaw County, to be observed annually on June 19th, except for those years when June 19th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, during which years, Juneteenth will be observed the Friday immediately preceding or Monday immediately following that date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Washtenaw County will commemorate the 2021 Juneteenth observance with a flag raising ceremony and program on Friday, June 18, 2021 at 9:00 am at the flagpole in front of 220 N. Main.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Beeman	X			Maciejewski	X			Shink	X		
Hodge	X			Morgan	X						
Jefferson	X			Sanders	X						
LaBarre	X			Scott	X						

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

9 0 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on June 2, 2021, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 3rd day of June, 2021.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 21-105