



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH 2023 IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Designating June 19, 2023, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, when enslaved Africans learned of their freedom in the Southwestern States.

WHEREAS, news of the end of chattel slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on "rebellious states," on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Union troops, led by General Gordon Granger, entered Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, issuing General Order Number Three, which ordered enslaved African people in Texas to be free and stated that "this involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former enslavers and enslaved;" and

WHEREAS, chattel slavery still continued in Union border states of Kentucky and Delaware, which was abolished by the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the US constitution in December of 1865; and now in 2023, due to the horrors of chattel slavery, African-American / Black people have yet to achieve true equality and equity in American society; and

WHEREAS, racism and white supremacy have tainted the foundation of America, beginning with chattel slavery in 1619, and the denial of the humanity of those enslaved by the authors of the Declaration of Independence who declared, "all men are created equal," while holding men and women of African descent in slavery; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism negatively impacts the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the over 10,000 Black residents and also negatively affects all residents of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, we must address the harsh reality of racism and anti-blackness in Santa Barbara County, intentionally work toward solutions, and be the beacon of hope shining light on how to mitigate the epidemic loss of Black lives in the United States, and condemn all actions carried out in the spirit of racism and all activities that sustain systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth allows us to celebrate the freeing of enslaved people, reflect on the condition of the lives of their descendants in our present day, and Juneteenth Santa Barbara calls to action all levels of government to commit ourselves to be anti-racist and combat anti-blackness, as we work to end systemic racism across our county; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this County of Santa Barbara declares and celebrates June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth and encourages all residents to use this time to learn about the legacy of Black peoples, their contributions, and stand in an alliance to end racism, bigotry, and hate.

Passed and adopted on this 16th day of June 2023, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Mona Diaz
Clerk of the Board

Pat Williams
Supervisor - 1st District

Louise Cooper
Supervisor - 2nd District

Jan Hunter
Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber
Supervisor - 4th District

J. Dwyer
Supervisor - 5th District