



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2020  
AS JUNETEENTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
COMMEMORATING THE FREEING OF  
ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

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

*WHEREAS, now in 2020, we have yet to achieve absolute equality between the descendants of former slaves and the descendants of former masters with Black Americans being 2.5 times more likely than white Americans to be killed by the police, 2.4 times more likely to be killed by the current COVID-19 pandemic, 5 times more likely to be incarcerated; 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 that "all men are created equal" while holding men and women of African descent in slavery; and*

*WHEREAS, Jerry Forney, a formerly enslaved person regarded as one of Santa Barbara's first Black residents, refused to return to North Carolina with his former master and instead created a plan to bring 500 formerly enslaved people from North Carolina to Santa Barbara in 1881; and*

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

*WHEREAS, we must address the harsh reality of racism and anti-blackness in our country to stop the epidemic loss of Black lives in the United States, and condemn all actions carried out in the spirit of racism and all actions that sustain systemic racism; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth gives us the opportunity to celebrate the freeing of enslaved people, reflect on the condition of the lives of their descendants in our present day, and commit ourselves to being anti-racist as we work to end systemic racism in our communities; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors declares and celebrates June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth and encourages all residents to use this time to learn about the legacy of slavery and stand up for racial justice in our community.

**Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 16th day of June, 2020.**



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Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board