

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19th AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of African people were forcibly brought to the territory that is now the United States between 1619 and 1801; and

WHEREAS, Africans forced into slavery suffered indignities that are unimaginable today, often being brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, stripped of their names and heritage, and torn apart from family members when sold at auctions under the cruelest of public spectacles; and

WHEREAS, after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, and the passage of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in 1865, some landowners in Texas continued to hold enslaved people of African descent in bondage; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, to announce that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the outcome of the Civil War, the legal abolition of slavery, and the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution more than 150 years ago, a system of racial segregation known as "Jim Crow" arose across many sections of our nation; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the cumulative effect of the institutions of slavery and "Jim Crow" laws on the lives of African Americans, and the consequences of these evils, continue to manifest themselves today throughout American society; and

WHEREAS, despite the stubborn legacies of slavery and "Jim Crow," Santa Barbara County's African-American community has made – and continues to make – rich and meaningful contributions to our cultural and civic life; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday commemorating the effective end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday, and on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed it into law as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara acknowledges and denounces the wrongs committed against African Americans by the institutions of slavery and "Jim Crow"; and

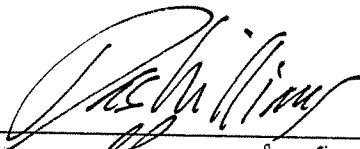
WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara expresses its commitment to the pursuit of tolerance and understanding of one another, with the goal of eliminating all racial bias, prejudice and discriminatory behavior, and to remember and teach future generations about the history of slavery and "Jim Crow" laws to ensure that these tragedies will be neither forgotten nor repeated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors declares June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day in Santa Barbara County.

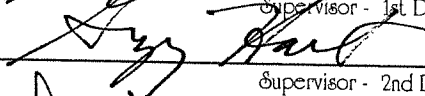
PASSED and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 15th day of June 2022.



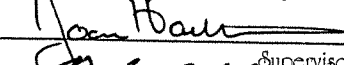
ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board




Supervisor - 1st District



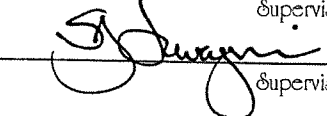
Supervisor - 2nd District



Supervisor - 3rd District



Supervisor - 4th District



Supervisor - 5th District