



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH 2024
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed The Emancipation Proclamation, declaring the freedom of enslaved people in the Confederate states, contingent upon their return to the Union by that date, thus using the Proclamation as both a reward and punishment; and

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation did not fully abolish slavery in the United States and was not intended to end slavery completely, as it did not affect Northern states like Missouri and Delaware where slavery was legal, nor did it grant U.S. citizenship to Black Northerners, and emancipation was delayed for many enslaved people, particularly in Texas, due to the lack of a significant Union presence and the withholding of information by enslavers; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in Texas did not learn of the Emancipation Proclamation until June 19, 1865, when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Proclamation and ensure the freedom of approximately 250,000 enslaved people, leading to celebrations among the newly freed and the birth of Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, The first annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" was organized by freedmen in Texas on June 19, 1866, featuring prayer meetings, singing of spirituals, and the wearing of new clothes to symbolize newfound freedom, and as Black people migrated from Texas, they carried the Juneteenth tradition with them, leading to widespread commemorations that include music, barbecues, prayer services, historical re-enactments, and other activities; and

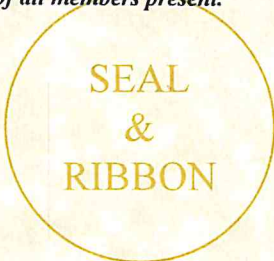
WHEREAS, Slavery was officially abolished with the adoption and ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in December 1865, which states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction," and this exception clause has been linked by scholars, activists, and prisoners to the rise of a prison system that disproportionately incarcerates Black people and profits off their unpaid or underpaid labor; and

WHEREAS, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979, and over the years, several other states followed suit, culminating in Congress passing a resolution in June 2021 establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday, which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on June 17, 2021, and further recognized in California as a state holiday by AB1655, signed by Governor Newsom on September 29, 2022, with celebrations planned along the Central Coast including in San Luis Obispo, Lompoc, Solvang, and Santa Barbara;

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 Black serving organizations as well as people who identify as black calls to action all levels of government to commit ourselves to practice inclusivity and pro black inclusion, as we work to end systemic racism across our county; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors DOES HEREBY DECLARE AND CELEBRATES June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth in Santa Barbara County 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 by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, on this 18th day of June 2024, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board