

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COMMEMORATING THE FREEDOM 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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves”; and

WHEREAS, one year ago we witnessed the murder of George Floyd, which brought more awareness to the social, economic, and racial inequities that have persisted throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, we have yet to achieve absolute equality between the descendants of former slaves and the descendants of former masters with Black Americans being 3.23 times more likely than white Americans to be killed by the police, twice as likely to have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 times more likely to be incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, although it is important to recognize the work that still remains to be done and recommit ourselves to that work every day, especially in recognition of this holiday, Juneteenth is a time for joyful celebration of Black and African-American culture and the many contributions Black and African-American individuals have made to our community due to the emancipation of enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Forney, a formerly enslaved person regarded as Santa Barbara’s first Black resident, refused to return to North Carolina with his former master and instead drew up a plan to bring 500 formerly enslaved people from that state to his new town and went on to make many contributions to Santa Barbara, including twice running for Mayor; and

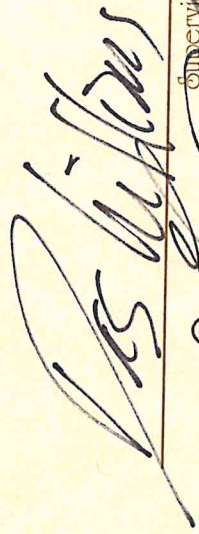
WHEREAS, Santa Barbara’s first Juneteenth community celebration took place at El Centro on Santa Barbara’s Westside and then grew to an event of over 400 people the next year at the Santa Barbara Public Library, last year had to transition to a virtual space due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this year, is taking a hybrid approach with an physical open gallery space and Black artisan market along with virtual programming; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth gives us the opportunity to celebrate the freeing of enslaved people and to reflect on the condition of the lives of their descendants in our present day and commit ourselves to the systemic change required to end racism in our communities; and

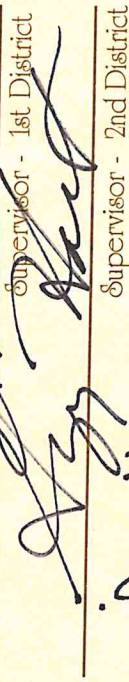
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors declares and celebrates June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth and encourages all residents to use this time to reflect on the actions you can take on a daily basis to advance racial justice and confront issues of racism in our community.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 15th day of June, 2021.





Supervisor - 1st District



Supervisor - 2nd District




Supervisor - 3rd District



Supervisor - 4th District



Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: 
Clerk of the Board