



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

HONORING JUNE 19, 2024 AS JUNETEENTH DAY IN CHATHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an annual holiday, celebrated on June 19th, that commemorates the freedom of the enslaved in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the name Juneteenth is a combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth" which is also referred to as Emancipation Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest commemoration of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has become not only a time to commemorate Black liberation from the institution of slavery, but also an acknowledgment of resilience, solidarity, and culture of the Black community; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth allows us all to join together to celebrate the freedoms and lives that generations before have fought bravely to secure; and

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War (1861 - 1865), emancipation was implemented in different places at different times and emancipation became a well-known cause of celebration across the United States, then Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, and it went into effect on January 1, 1863, and the proclamation freed persons who were enslaved in "*rebellious states*"; and

WHEREAS, it was not until June 18, 1865, two and a half years after the signing of the proclamation was issued, that the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas, and on the next day, June 19, 1865, Union soldiers issued General Order No. 3, which informed Texans that enslaved persons were free; and

WHEREAS, the news was met with celebration, but also defiance, for those who were formerly enslaved went to great lengths to claim and maintain their freedom in the days following the announcement, now Juneteenth has been celebrated annually since then and is recognized as one of the longest-running holidays established by African Americans; and

WHEREAS, despite more than 159 years since the abolition of slavery, economic, institutional, and social barriers remain for Black people in American; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, resolve June 19, 2024 as Juneteenth Day in Chatham County and encourage residents to reflect and take action to advance freedom and equality.

Adopted, this the 17th day of June.

ATTEST:

Jenifer K. Johnson, MMC, Clerk to the Board

Mike Dasher, Chair

