



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 6, 2023

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

Majority Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Recognizing June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth Independence Day**

Whereas, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865 Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, this year marks the 53rd Anniversary of the Annual MLK Community Festival Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion (Juneteenth) in Santa Rosa

Whereas, organizations such as the North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce, NAACP of Sonoma County, Sonoma County Black Forum, 100 Black Men of Sonoma County, and Petaluma Blacks for Community Development all exist to share, educate, and uplift Black history and culture within our community;

Whereas, we call upon the people of Sonoma County to eliminate prejudice and to

celebrate the great diversity of the American people and the extraordinary contributions of Black Americans, and to look upon the current state of our nation as an opportunity for change that brings about racial equity through the work of radical imagination, intention, purpose, and continued work towards the eradication of prejudice, racism, and injustice.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma:

1. Recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth and designated June 19, 2023, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”; and
2. Supports community celebrations of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for our residents to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped us.

Be It Further Resolved, that the County of Sonoma emphasizes the freedom and dignity of every human being and opposes and rejects any form of oppression.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Coursey:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.