

Juneteenth

June 19, 2024

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors honors **Juneteenth**, celebrated on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, to commemorate African American resilience and contributions to American history; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger declared the end of the Civil War and emancipated the remaining slaves in Texas, marking a pivotal moment following President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, nearly 200,000 former slaves and free African Americans bravely fought for liberty, defending the rights of those unjustly held in bondage; and

WHEREAS, **Juneteenth** emerged as a celebration on June 19th, focusing on education, self-improvement, and traditional festivities symbolizing emancipation; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s connected contemporary struggles with historical ones, leading to a resurgence in **Juneteenth** celebrations; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, **Juneteenth** became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, marking the first state recognition of emancipation celebrations; and

WHEREAS, promoting education and awareness about Juneteenth ensures understanding of African American struggles and achievements, fostering unity and solidarity in the fight against racism and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, **Juneteenth** celebrates the diversity and contributions of African Americans, reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, supporting initiatives that empower African American communities, promote economic opportunity, healthcare access, and social justice, fosters a more equitable and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, actively participating in Juneteenth celebrations, engaging in dialogue, and addressing systemic injustices ensures a more inclusive society where every person is treated with dignity and respect; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim and celebrate June 19th as **Juneteenth**, a day of remembrance, celebration, and reflection. We honor the resilience, courage, and heritage of African Americans, commemorating the emancipation of slaves and reaffirming our commitment to equality and justice for all.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, District 4

DAVID HAUBERT, Vice-President
Supervisor, District 1

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Supervisor, District 2

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