

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND  
HOLLY MITCHELL

June 15, 2021

**Proclaim June 19th as Juneteenth**

Juneteenth, a combination of the words “June” and “Nineteenth,” commemorates the end to slavery in the United States and is a holiday observed by millions of Americans. Around Los Angeles County (LA County), there are many events planned to honor this historic day, including a picnic at Bruce’s Beach, a celebration at Magic Johnson Park and a music festival in downtown Long Beach. There is a growing movement among government and private companies to observe Juneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates the events of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had declared all enslaved people free more than two years earlier. The Emancipation Proclamation changed the legal status under federal law of approximately 3.5 million enslaved Black and African Americans. Juneteenth acknowledges the significant lapse of over two years, from 1863 to 1865, when enslaved Blacks and African Americans were unaware of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Thirteenth Amendment, which added the abolishment of slavery to the Constitution, passed Congress in January 1865, and was ratified and adopted in

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December 1865.

Since June 19, 1865, Americans have celebrated Juneteenth and it is now recognized by 47 states. In 2003, California's legislature passed a resolution recognizing Juneteenth. For nearly two decades, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation has been advocating for the date June 19 to be recognized as an annual national observance.

The residents of LA County are encouraged to honor and celebrate Juneteenth by attending an in-person or virtual event. Every year, Juneteenth is an opportunity to gather with family and friends to celebrate freedom and recognize our country's continued commitment to ending racial injustices.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim June 19 every year as Juneteenth in Los Angeles County.

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JH:kb