

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 14, 2022

Commemorating June 19th as Juneteenth in Los Angeles County

“Juneteenth,” also called Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day, now recognized nationally as Juneteenth National Independence Day, was officially made a federal holiday when it was signed into law on Thursday, June 17, 2021, by President Joe Biden. The federal holiday commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States (U.S.).

On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers to Galveston, Texas, to deliver General Order No. 3, officially ending the enslavement of approximately 250,000 people in the state. The decree came approximately two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Later that year, in December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the Constitution, was adopted and ratified.

The significance of Juneteenth goes beyond the tribute and celebration of freedom. The federal holiday is a reminder of the systemic oppression, mass genocide, and human trafficking that occurred in the U.S. The jubilation of Juneteenth originates from the joy of newly freed African Americans who learned of their freedom after delayed notification and the malicious decision to withhold the information by enslavers until after the harvesting season. Juneteenth progressed over time from a week in June when formerly enslaved

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people and slave descendants made the journey to Galveston to a nationwide celebration of freedom.

The County of Los Angeles (County) will host several events and provide resources to our residents in celebration of Juneteenth. The County Library has created [booklists](#) for children, teens, and adults, and will host virtual and in-person [programs](#). The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will host several events, including workshops and activities that explore the history of Juneteenth and connect its history to artwork currently on view at the museum. The County Department of Parks and Recreation will host a “Juneteenth Concert in the Park” at Magic Johnson Park on Saturday, June 18th, a celebration with free music, activities, art and entertainment for families. In addition, the Second Supervisorial District will [host](#) its “Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Resource Fair” on Friday, June 17th at Magic Johnson Park, which will include food trucks; music; guest performances; and record expungement, tenant protection, immigration rights, mental health counseling, and other onsite services. County residents will have numerous opportunities throughout the month of June to celebrate and connect with the history of Juneteenth.

While themes of liberation surround Juneteenth, African Americans continue to face systematic challenges such as the racial wealth gap, disproportionate incarceration, and persistent health disparities. Residents of the County are encouraged to observe Juneteenth by attending in-person or virtual events and reflecting on the meaning of liberation. Every year, Juneteenth should be an opportunity to gather with family and friends to celebrate freedom through speeches, educational events, and recreational gatherings, with music, food, and dancing.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Commemorate June 19, 2022, as “Juneteenth” throughout Los Angeles County (County).
2. Instruct all County departments, and request the Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, and Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, to work with the Library, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Department of Parks and Recreation in promoting their Juneteenth related events,

programs, and resources, including on respective websites and social media platforms.

3. Encourage County residents to attend Juneteenth celebrations happening throughout the County.

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