

RESOLUTION

Declaring Juneteenth an Official Holiday in the Town of Carrboro

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865 Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves of this nation's original sin of human bondage and had become official on January 1, 1863 in these United States of America which included North Carolina and the Town of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, even with nowhere to go, many slaves felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day is recognized in 47 states in a ceremonial fashion but only the state of Texas has recognized Juneteenth as an official state holiday since 1980; and

WHEREAS, Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue was the first governor to proclaim a Juneteenth observance in the State of North Carolina in June 2010; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper, proclaimed Juneteenth in North Carolina on June 19, 2020 and created the Andrea Harris Social Economic Environmental Health Disparities Task Force to address longstanding, intersectional racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper also established the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice to end racially discriminatory law enforcement practices and promote a more equitable criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Juneteenth would provide community members and Town of Carrboro employees an opportunity to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, as well as, reflect on the history and impact of slavery on us all;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council designates Juneteenth as an official Town holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council urges our state and federal representatives to sponsor legislation to make Juneteenth an official state and federal holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council directs the Town Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, Chapel Hill Town Council and the Hillsborough Commissioners.

Approved this__day of__20__.