



RESOLUTION NO: _____

PRESENTED: _____

ADOPTED: _____

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF FLINT AND ENCOURAGE GOVERNOR WHITMER TO ESTABLISH JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL STATE RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY IN PURSUANT TO MCL 435.101.

BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL:

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all slaves free. However, this freedom was not made known to many enslaved African Americans until two years after its passage. Juneteenth recognizes that on June 19, 1865, the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were informed that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, When the former slaves heard of this news, they began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance.¹ The following year, on June 19, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas.² Within a few years, African Americans in other states were celebrating the day, making it an annual tradition.³

WHEREAS, celebrations have continued across the United States including a rich history in the Flint community recognizing the end of slavery and the triumphs, culture and achievements of African Americans locally and across the United States and throughout the world.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Flint believes that Juneteenth should be recognized as an official holiday in the City of Flint and the State of Michigan as it was recognized as an official holiday in the state of Texas in 1980. Therefore it is the desire of the Mayor and the Flint City Council to establish Juneteenth as an officially recognized holiday in the City of Flint.

WHEREAS, the State legislature, in 2005, declared the third Saturday in June of each year as “Juneteenth National Freedom Day.” However we encourage Governor Gretchen Whitmer to declare Juneteenth an officially recognized state holiday under MCL 435.101.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Council and do all things necessary to establish Juneteenth as a holiday in the City of Flint and encourage Governor Whitmer to establish Juneteenth as an official state recognized holiday in accordance with MCL 435.101.

FOR THE CITY OF FLINT:

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:

Sheldon A. Neeley, Mayor

Monica Galloway, City Council President

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica, Juneteenth United States Holiday

² Encyclopedia Britannica, Juneteenth United States Holiday

³ Encyclopedia Britannica, Juneteenth United States Holiday