

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING AND DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EACH YEAR AS A PAID HOLIDAY IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, “Emancipation Day”, “Emancipation Celebration” and “Freedom Day”, is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, to free more than three million enslaved people in the Confederate states, but Texas was considered a safe haven for slaveholders until federal troops arrived more than two years later on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, historically, Juneteenth observances have not always received acknowledgement and recognition, though Juneteenth is a critical component of American history as it marks a turning point in our nation and a step towards equality; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, California’s legislature passed a resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant contribution and advances made by African Americans in our state, to commemorate the strength and determination of African Americans throughout their history; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an opportunity to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today and time to honor and pay respect for the sufferings of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day during which we develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the African American experience; and

WHEREAS, only through collectively striving may we close gaps of the immeasurable distance between us and affirm the promise of the Declaration of Independence that all people have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day to recognize and appreciate the achievements of African Americans across the City, the state and the nation in areas including education,

law, medicine, art, culture, public and military service, business, theology, athletics, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa strives to be a community that offers equal opportunity to its citizens, all of whom deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa supports and encourages the unified understanding of one another's experiences in our place of work and throughout the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa that it recognizes and declares June 19 of each year as a paid holiday in observance of Juneteenth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 2023.

John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brenda Green, City Clerk

Kimberly Hall Barlow, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, **BRENDA GREEN**, City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is the original of Resolution No. 2023-XX and was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the 4th day of April, 2023, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this 5th day of April, 2023.

Brenda Green, City Clerk

(SEAL)