

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-R-73

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI; FURTHER URGING UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO DECLARE JUNETEENTH A NATIONAL HOLIDAY; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL, AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, for more than 130 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day has been the oldest and only African-American holiday observed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery which occurred in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes the day all remaining slaves were freed; and

WHEREAS, many states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, including Florida, which in 1991 officially designated June 19 of each year as “Juneteenth Day;” and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, it has not been designated a national holiday despite bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the authority to declare national holidays through the enactment of federal statute; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council urge the United States Congress to declare Juneteenth a national holiday, as it is a celebration of liberation and achievement for African Americans and the entire country,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recommendation. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby urge the United States Congress to declare Juneteenth a national holiday.

Section 2. Transmittal. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Florida Senator and Representative in the United States Congress.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5-0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 14th day of July, 2020.


PHILIPPE BIEN-AIME
MAYOR

ATTEST:



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN MARY ESTIME-IRVIN

Moved by: Galvin

Seconded by: Estimé-Irvin

Vote:

Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime

 X (Yes) (No)

Vice Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

 X (Yes) (No)

Councilman Scott Galvin

 X (Yes) (No)

Councilwoman Carol Keys, Esq.

 X (Yes) (No)

Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin

 X (Yes) (No)