

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL COUNTY PAID  
HOLIDAY**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that declared: "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;" and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation, primarily a wartime measure, intentionally excluded people in the slave-holding border-states and the areas of the Confederacy that already had come under Union control; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to United States General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia, and on April 26, 1865, US Major-General W. T. Sherman and General Joseph E. Johnston finalized the terms of surrender at the Bennett Farm House in Orange County [now Durham]; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger was given command of the Department of Texas, and on June 19, 1865, two and one-half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Union soldiers led by Major General Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas with the long-awaited news that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved people were now free; and

WHEREAS, upon his arrival in Galveston, Major General Granger read General Order Number 3, which began: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer"; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth – also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day – has become a special day among African Americans to celebrate the day when all the enslaved sons and daughters of Africa in America realized their freedom; and

WHEREAS, only the State of Texas currently recognizes Juneteenth as an official state holiday; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010, Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue proclaimed the observance of Juneteenth in North Carolina, and on June 19, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed Juneteenth Day in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Congress, including Senator Kamala Harris of California and Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, recently have introduced legislation to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Commissioners hereby designates Juneteenth as an official County paid holiday, thus providing the opportunity for employees and the community-at large to join together with

the descendants of enslaved Africans to observe the end of slavery and the liberation of all people in the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Commissioners urges state and federal legislators to sponsor legislation making Juneteenth an official state and federal holiday; and

BE IT MOREOVER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Commissioners directs the Clerk to the Board's Office to forward a copy of this resolution to the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Carrboro Town Council, the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners, the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools Board of Education, and the Orange County Schools Board of Education.

This the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of September, 2020.



  
Penny Rich, Chair  
Orange County Board of Commissioners