

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, Our nation tells the story of people from every nation woven together by the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as asserted in America's founding on July 4th, 1776; and

WHEREAS, July 4th symbolizes American independence, freedom, and individuality, yet these same attributes that make up human dignity were denied to hundreds of thousands of African American men, women, and children who remained in chattel slavery for nearly a century; and

WHEREAS, On January 1st, 1863 following the outbreak of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring the end of slavery in the United States, further solidified with the passage of the 13th Amendment prohibiting it; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19th, 1865 the day news of the Emancipation Proclamation was officially transmitted to those enslaved in Texas. With the first Juneteenth celebrations occurring across Texas in 1866. As Black Texans began migrating throughout the U.S., Juneteenth expanded gaining recognition in over 45 states; and

WHEREAS, on June 17th, 2021 Juneteenth officially became a federally recognized holiday in commemoration of its 156th anniversary. An effort that would not be possible without individuals like Opal Lee, an educator and activist, who dedicated over 40 years to ensuring Juneteenth is known, recognized, and celebrated by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated in our community since 2014 and exemplifies the spirit of freedom, especially for those who, while facing severe adversity, make inventive, scientific, musical, and medicinal contributions to America and the world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that June 19th shall henceforth be an official City holiday known as Juneteenth and shall be a paid holiday for City employees.

Adopted and approved by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Brunswick, this the 20th day of April 2022.



Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor

Attest:
Naomi D. Atkinson, City Clerk