



Legislation Text

File #: 260544

RESOLUTION NO. 260544

Directing the City Manager to raise and display the Juneteenth Flag at City Hall during the month of June to honor African American culture and celebrate emancipation; and committing to annually recognizing Juneteenth as a city holiday by raising and displaying the Juneteenth Flag at City Hall.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of all enslaved people – more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day, is recognized as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Juneteenth serves as a time to reflect on our nation's history, honor the lives and struggles of African Americans, celebrate Black culture and excellence, and recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight for equality, equity, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City is home to generations of African American families, leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, artists, and public servants who have shaped the heart and future of our city, and whose contributions continue to uplift and inspire; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021 the City designated Juneteenth a City holiday, whereafter the United States Congress designated Juneteenth a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City continues to recognize the profound importance of supporting and promoting culturally inclusive celebrations that strengthen community bonds and foster a sense of belonging and historical awareness; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decision in *Shurtleff, et al. v. City of Boston, et al.* (2021), City Council provides legislative guidance to the City Manager and all relevant staff pertaining to the raising of flags on city property not associated with the United States, the State of Missouri, and the City of Kansas City; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and commit to annually recognizing Juneteenth as a day of historical and cultural significance in the City of Kansas City, and extend sincere appreciation to the City's African American community for their enduring contributions to the City's development, character, and future.

Section 2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to display the Juneteenth Flag during the month of June on an annual basis to recognize Juneteenth.



Authenticated as Passed


Quinton L. Williams, Mayor

Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

JUN 11 2026

Date Passed