

Resolution No. 7-20 **RESOLUTION:** To designate June 19, known as "Juneteenth" or "Juneteenth Independence Day," as a paid municipal holiday and to encourage programs that celebrate and commemorate the end of slavery in the United States

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it was more than 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation and many months after the end of the Civil War, before news of the end of slavery reached the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Federal troops, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and to ensure that all the 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were freed; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1866, African-Americans who were enslaved in Texas celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth" or "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates successes gained through education and greater opportunity and demands the further removal of all barriers to equality; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wants to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and the observance of the end of slavery as part of the history and heritage of the United States by designating Juneteenth Independence Day a paid municipal holiday in the City of Rockville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, as follows:

1. That June 19, known as "Juneteenth" or "Juneteenth Independence Day" is hereby designated now and in the future as a paid municipal holiday in the City of Rockville to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States.
2. That the City will mark this date with special events and celebrations to encourage Rockville staff and community to learn and share stories, recognize and commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, elevate and celebrate African American history and contributions, and take action to actively promote equity.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at its meeting of July 20, 2020.



Sara Taylor Ferrell, City Clerk/ Director of
Council Operations