

June 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to the pursuit of initiatives that promote equity and inclusion and ending discrimination, prejudice, and injustice, and further recognizing Juneteenth celebrates freedom and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln effective January 1, 1863, that all persons enslaved within the rebellious states shall be freed. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years following the order, union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the president's order; and

WHEREAS, through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the exploitation of African American bodies and wealth continued past slavery and persists, thus, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, homeownership, and education of African American people; and

WHEREAS, June 19 has been celebrated in communities across the nation as Juneteenth also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to celebrate African American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices, and contributions that are woven into the American fabric; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ms. Opal Lee also known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," launched "Opal's Walk 2 D.C." to invite others across the country to join her in bringing attention to the importance of commemorating Juneteenth as a federal holiday and the fight for freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 89, Ms. Lee walked from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington, D.C. leaving in September 2016 and arriving in Washington, D.C. in January 2017; and

WHEREAS, on June 2021, U.S. Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, a day after the U.S. Senate passed the bill with unanimous consent and President Joseph Biden signed the bill into law on June 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, City Council passed Ordinance No. 32005 proclaiming Juneteenth to be a City Holiday thereby bringing awareness and consciousness to a crucial day in history and is a distinct step towards equity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 19-0804 that outlines Dallas' deep resolve to promote equity and inclusion in all aspects of city government and committed to make every effort possible to commit more resources to areas and populations where data demonstrates the needs are greatest; and

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WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, City Council passed Resolution No. 20-0945 directing the city manager to fly the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the remainder of June 2020, and annually thereafter for the month of June, to celebrate Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2021, City Council passed Resolution No. 21-0503 known as the Racial Equity Resolution, to reaffirm Dallas' commitment to work towards understanding and addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2021, City Council passed Resolution No. 21-0777, which amended Resolution No. 20-0945, directing the city manager to fly the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza and other City operated facilities in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the remainder of June 2021, and annually thereafter for the month of June, to celebrate Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2022, City Council passed Resolution No. 22-1236 adopting the first Comprehensive Racial Equity Plan and immediately began implementing the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas will continue to build and share histories related to civil rights through intentional collaborative efforts with external stakeholders.

Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Dallas does hereby declare June 19, also known as Juneteenth, as an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of African American economic liberation and those who work towards that liberation.

SECTION 2. That the City of Dallas recognizes Juneteenth as an annual legal holiday within the City beginning June 19, 2021.

SECTION 3. That Resolution No. 21-0777 is amended to direct the City Manager to fly the Juneteenth Flag on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza and other City operated facilities from June 16, 2023 through June 19, 2023, and annually thereafter, from June 18 through June 20, in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag and the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal, to celebrate Juneteenth.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly resolved.