



Memorandum

**TO: RULES & OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

FROM: Vice Mayor Jones
Councilmember Foley
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 2, 2020

Approved *Sergio Jimenez* *Ram Foley* *C.A.*

Date

**DESIGNATE JUNE 19TH AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY WITHIN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE
TO RECOGNIZE THE ENDING OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct Staff to explore and report the financial implications associated with recognizing June 19th as a paid citywide holiday;
2. Place the item on the 12/1/2020 Council Agenda for action.

DISCUSSION

June Nineteenth (Juneteenth) is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. A day which commemorates Black and African American freedom and achievements while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. The word "Juneteenth" became the name for the joyous celebration of freedom from slavery as a result of the words "June Nineteenth" combined together in speech. Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 200 American cities and is officially recognized by 46 states.

As a City rich in diversity, it is our duty to recognize and celebrate June Nineteenth not only by adopting resolutions, but by pausing citywide to acknowledge and reflect on a day that changed the trajectory of the lives of most Blacks and African Americans being held as slaves in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger and federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to share the news that the war had ended, to take control of the state and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation marking the effective end of slavery in the United States.

ROGC AGENDA: 11/18/20
ITEM: G.3

It is imperative to recognize the integral role Blacks and African Americans play in the development of our City and it is further crucial for us as a City to not only celebrate but to take the time to educate ourselves about the history of the Black and African American community. The growing popularity of Juneteenth across the country signifies a level of growth, dignity, and understanding that has been missing for many years. Marking June 19th as a citywide holiday would only further encourage sensitization to the conditions and experiences of others, while also creating significant and lasting improvements in our society.

BROWN ACT

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff