

Proclamation
Juneteenth Freedom Day
June 19, 2020

Whereas, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the day of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and the Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves to be free; and

Whereas, in Texas and throughout the South, Juneteenth commemorations began on June 19 of each year—consisting of prayer services, inspirational speeches, readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, food, games, and dances; and

Whereas, in 1997, during the 105th U.S. Congress, House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution 11 were passed, officially recognizing Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent; and

Whereas, Juneteenth reflects our community’s deep belief in liberty and equality for all individuals, as all benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of others; and

Whereas, Juneteenth celebrates the strength and resolve of African Americans throughout our history, and is an opportunity to honor African American culture, art, history, and achievement; and


Whereas, Juneteenth will be commemorated the week of June 15 with a virtual celebration through the African American Museum of Iowa. Several virtual events will take place throughout the week of June 15 that will include spoken word performances, dance tutorials, video messages from leaders in the community and so much more.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020, as

Juneteenth Freedom Day

in Johnson County, Iowa, and encourage community members to attend the virtual celebration being held June 15 to June 20 and recognize this time by becoming aware of the history of emancipation, which affects the liberties of all people of color.

Signed this 11th day of June 2020, in Johnson County, Iowa.


Rod Sullivan, Chairperson
Johnson County Board of Supervisors

