

MOTION: JAMES

**June 10, 2021
Regular Meeting
HRC RES 21-7**

SECOND: PRIDGEN

RE: RESOLUTION TO DECLARE, AFFIRM AND RECOGNIZE THE 19TH OF JUNE OF 2021 AS JUNETEENTH DAY.

ACTION:

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, signed on September 22, 1862, became effective on January 1, 1863, thereby freeing slaves of this nation’s original sin of human bondage throughout much of the United States of America, including the Commonwealth of Virginia and Prince William County; and

WHEREAS, Union General Gordon Granger was dispatched to Galveston, Texas to announce the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and on June 19, 1865 declared the freedom of slaves still held in human bondage in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is recognized in 47 states, with mostly ceremonial observances and only the State of Texas recognizing Juneteenth as an official state holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States of America does not recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, members of Congress, including former Senator and now Vice President Kamala Harris of California and Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, have introduced legislation to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, annual observance of Juneteenth would provide residents and employees of Prince William an opportunity to reflect on the impact of slavery and remember those who were enslaved here and their profound contributions to our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Prince William County Human Rights Commission encourages all citizens and residents to pause and reflect upon the significance of June 19, 1865 and its importance in our never ending effort to make our nation a more perfect union.


Votes:

Ayes: Porter, James, Priden, BruMar, Young, Laos, Johnston

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent from the meeting: Holly, Usman

ATTEST: 

Executive Director