

MOTION: BruMar

**May 14, 2026
Regular Meeting
HRC RES 26-07**

SECOND: Baldwin

RE: RESOLUTION TO DECLARE, AFFIRM, AND RECOGNIZE THE 19TH OF JUNE OF 2026 AS JUNETEENTH DAY.

ACTION: Approved

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, which became effective on January 1, 1863, declaring the freedom of enslaved people in states still in rebellion, including the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, it was not until June 19, 1865—two and a half years after the Proclamation—that Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the freedom of enslaved African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 6, 1865, formally abolished chattel slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing June 19 as a federal legal public holiday; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Juneteenth provides the residents of Prince William County—the most diverse county in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the tenth most diverse in the nation—an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of slavery; and

WHEREAS, this day serves to honor the memory of those who were enslaved and to recognize their profound, enduring contributions to the cultural and economic fabric of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Human Rights Commission officially recognizes June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth Day and encourages all residents to pause and reflect upon the significance of this date in our collective effort to build a more perfect union.

Votes

Ayes: Young, BruMar, Porter, Baldwin, Pratter, Sparkes, Staubly

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent from the meeting: Young, Johnston

ATTEST: _____
Executive Director