

# PROCLAMATION

## OF THE

### MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#### RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2023 AS JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19. (It is also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, and Black Independence Day.); and

WHEREAS, Jun 19, 1865, marks the date that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery. His announcement, General Order Number 3, reads as follows:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freeman are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere”; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, had legally freed slaves in Texas on January 1, 1863, almost 2½ years earlier. Even after the general order, some slave masters withheld the information from their enslaved people, holding them enslaved through one more harvest season; and

WHEREAS, Texans celebrated Juneteenth beginning in 1866 and celebrations have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday. Al Edwards, a freshman state representative, put forward the bill, H.B. 1016, making Texas the first state to officially recognize this emancipation celebration. Since then, 49 other states and the District of Columbia have also commemorated or recognized the day; and

WHEREAS, Texans celebrated Juneteenth beginning in 1866 and celebrations have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth officially became the 11th federal holiday on June 17, 2021, and Juneteenth National Independence Day is the first holiday to be added to the list of federal holidays since the recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday in 1983; and

WHEREAS, this day of reflection shall remind us of the historical struggle for human and civil rights faced by African Americans across the Country and in our community; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County is committed to work on social justice issues that affect our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims June 19, 2023, as:

“Juneteenth Freedom Day”

Dated: June 20, 2023

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Glenn McGourty, Chair

