

**STATE OF GEORGIA
HENRY COUNTY
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE**

RESOLUTION NO. R20-1179

ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH AS CITY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

WHEREAS, African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 46 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, slavery in the United States was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Stockbridge recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Stockbridge supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Stockbridge recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. Establishment of Juneteenth as City Holiday. The Mayor and Council hereby designates June 19 of each year hereafter as Juneteenth Day and such day shall be a holiday for all of the residents of the City of Stockbridge.

SECTION 2. Public Record. This document shall be maintained as a public record by the City Clerk and shall be accessible to the public during all normal business hours of the City of Stockbridge. A copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to members of the Stockbridge legislative delegation and made available for distribution to the public and the press.

SECTION 3. Authorization of Execution. The Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

SECTION 4. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

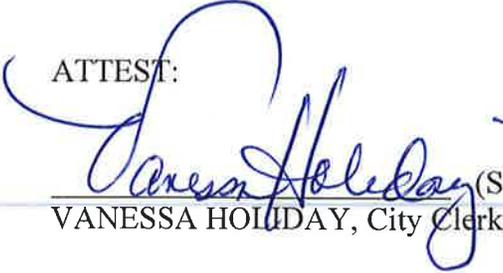
SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Stockbridge as provided in the City Charter.

SO RESOLVED this 23rd day of June, 2020.



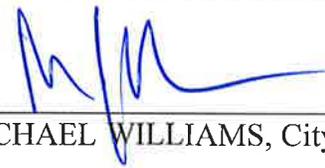
ANTHONY S. FORD, Mayor

ATTEST:



VANESSA HOLIDAY, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



MICHAEL WILLIAMS, City Attorney