

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DIRECTING THE DISPLAY OF

THE JUNETEENTH FLAG

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WHEREAS, in 1776 a new nation was formed on a colonial foundation that relied heavily on the enslavement and forced labor of African people cruelly stolen and separated from their lands, families, and culture; and

WHEREAS, nearly a century later, in 1863, during the Civil War, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that “all persons held as slaves” within the states then in a state of rebellion “are, and henceforward shall be free”; and

WHEREAS, due to the slow advance of Union troops into the Confederacy, enslaved people in Texas did not know of the signing of the proclamation and their subsequent freedom until Union General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, in 1866 formerly enslaved people and their allies began commemorating the anniversary of the issuance of General Order No. 3 on June 19th, calling the date Juneteenth, with celebrations spreading throughout the South and the country over the next century and a half; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020 this Board adopted a resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and reaffirming the County of San Mateo’s commitment to racial equity; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020 this Board adopted a resolution condemning racism and injustice, declaring racism a public health crisis, and affirming a commitment to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2021 this Board adopted a resolution acknowledging the centuries of inequality and systemic, institutionalized racism in the United States, recognizing the painful and significant role that government agencies have played in creating and maintaining racial inequities, and committing to advancing and improving San Mateo County’s Racial Equity Efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 Lisa Jeanne Graf designed the Juneteenth flag with a white star surrounded by a starburst representing Texas and the freedom of Black Americans in all states, a curved line behind the star representing a new horizon, and red, white, and blue colors taken from the flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2022, this Board introduced and subsequently adopted an ordinance to designate Juneteenth as a holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, raising the Juneteenth flag provides an opportunity to educate the public about the history, power, resilience, and unbroken spirit of Black Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby directs that the Juneteenth flag be displayed on a flag pole in County Center during all business days of the month of June 2022 and that the County Executive is authorized and directed to cause the Juneteenth flag be displayed during the same time period on flag poles at other appropriate locations under the ownership or control of the County of San Mateo, consistent with the purpose and intent of this Proclamation.

Dated: May 17, 2022

SUPERVISORS:

DON HORSLEY, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors