

PROCLAMATION

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION AFFIRMING AND COMMEMORATING
JUNE 19, 2023 IN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO AS**

JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the thirteen United States of America pronounced in their Declaration of Independence the self-evident truth that all men are created equal, even as those states continued to allow the cruel and inhumane enslavement of African people cruelly stolen and separated from their homelands, families, and culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1807, the United States Congress passed a statute prohibiting the importation of enslaved people as of January 1, 1808, but did not abolish the institution of slavery, and 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 henceforth shall be free”, and 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 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 June 23, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and reaffirming the County of San Mateo’s commitment to racial equity, on August 4, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution condemning racism and injustice, declaring racism a public health crisis, and affirming a commitment to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion; and on September 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors 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, on May 3, 2022, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors introduced and subsequently adopted an ordinance to designate Juneteenth as a holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby affirms and commemorates June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth and calls upon all the people of San Mateo County to observe this important date as a celebration of the resilience of Black Americans and an opportunity for education about the true history of this country, and directs that the Juneteenth flag be displayed on a flag pole in County Center during the month of June 2023, and that the County Executive is authorized, and directed to, cause the Juneteenth flag to 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 23, 2023

SUPERVISORS:

DAVE PINE, President

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors