



**OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**  
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**NB-20**

**CHARLES PARKIN**  
City Attorney

**MICHAEL J. MAIS**  
Assistant City  
Attorney

June 8, 2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a day of celebration in Long Beach, and calling for President Biden and Governor Newsom to make it a federal and state holiday. (Citywide)

**DISCUSSION**

Pursuant to your request of June 1, 2021, this office has prepared and submits the above-described resolution for your consideration.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney

By *Gary J. Anderson*  
GARY J. ANDERSON  
Principal Deputy City Attorney

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LONG BEACH RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A  
DAY OF CELEBRATION IN LONG BEACH; AND CALLING  
FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN AND GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO  
MAKE IT A FEDERAL AND STATE HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration  
of the ending of slavery in the United States;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, U.S. Army officer and Union Major General  
Gordon Granger, and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Confederate-controlled Texas and  
announced the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery;

WHEREAS, two years, five months, and eighteen days after President  
Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the last of those enslaved within the  
borders of the United States were freed;

WHEREAS, the celebration of June 19th was coined “Juneteenth” (a  
combination of June and Nineteenth), and what began as a celebration for former slaves  
and their descendants in Texas, has become a national day of pride with celebrations in  
communities throughout the country.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has become the most popular annual celebration  
of emancipation from slavery in the United Sates, and is celebrated in more than 205  
American cities and is officially recognized by most states as they celebrate African  
American freedom, cultural contributions and achievement, while encourage continuous  
self-development and respect for all cultures. Juneteenth is currently recognized by 49  
states and the District of Columbia as an official state holiday or observance;

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach is a leader in celebrating our diversity  
and supporting social justice and equity in our City and fostering mutual respect and

1 understanding for all. As such, Long Beach desires to declare Juneteenth as a Day of  
2 Celebration in Long Beach and to add our voice in the call to make Juneteenth a  
3 national and state holiday.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
5 follows:

6 Section 1. The City Council hereby recognizes June 19 of every year as  
7 Juneteenth, as a day of observance to reflect on the suffering endured by early African-  
8 Americans, to promote public awareness, and celebrate African-American freedom and  
9 achievement and regarded as a Day of Celebration in Long Beach;

10 Section 2. The City Council hereby calls on and urges President Biden  
11 and the United States Congress to make Juneteenth a national holiday.

12 Section 3. The City Council hereby calls on and urges Governor  
13 Newsom, the California State Legislature, and the people of California to make it a state  
14 holiday; and urges the people of California to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to  
15 honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history  
16 of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast  
17 commitment to promoting unity and equality.

18 Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
19 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk