

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

1 RESOLUTION NO. RES-21-0058

2
3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A
5 DAY OF CELEBRATION IN LONG BEACH; AND CALLING
6 FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN AND GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO
7 MAKE IT A FEDERAL AND STATE HOLIDAY
8

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach is a leader in celebrating our diversity
28 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 June 8, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Zendejas, Allen, Supernaw, Mungo, Saro, Uranga, Austin, Richardson.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Absent: Councilmembers: Price.

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: None.

M. De La Cruz
City Clerk

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