



Board of County Commissioners

Administrative Committee

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, word of freedom finally reached the slaves in Texas, two and a half years after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, and enslaved people in the South were made aware of their freedom and jubilant celebrations evolved into a general celebration of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolition of slavery, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions Black Americans have made to our society; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States: and

WHEREAS, Salem County with its large Quaker population was considered a safe haven for slaves fleeing through the Underground Railroad from points South; and

WHEREAS, it is proper and fitting for the County of Salem to designate the “Third Friday in June” as an official holiday to celebrate the emancipation of Black Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Salem County Board of County Commissioners that Juneteenth is an official holiday and will be celebrated on the third Friday in the month of June.

BENJAMIN H. LAURY, Director of the Board of County Commissioners

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true resolution adopted by the Salem County Board of County Commissioners on May 4, 2022.

STACY L. PENNINGTON
Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE

COMMISSIONER	RESOLUTION MOVED	RESOLUTION SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G. Ostrum, Jr.	✓		✓			
E. Ramsay						✓
L. Ware		✓	✓			
R.S. Griscom			✓			
B. Laury			✓			