



**CHAIR** January 20, 2021

Maria Mitchell,  
Ward 5

RE: JUNETEENTH DAY

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Babatope Adedayo,  
Ward 5

WHEREAS, the St. Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission views June 19<sup>th</sup>, also known as Juneteenth Day as an important recognition of the struggle for the freedom of African Americans in the United States of America;

Tyler Blackmon,  
Ward 3

WHEREAS, President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation outlawed slavery as of January 1, 1863, but that the end of slavery was not announced in Texas until June 19, 1865;

Erin Hayes,  
Ward 2

WHEREAS, the nearly two-and-a-half year delay between the Emancipation Proclamation taking effect and the freedom of enslaved persons in Texas is symbolic of the broken promises and halting progress of human rights in our nation;

Muria Kruger,  
Ward 2

WHEREAS, we recognize the multiple forms of systemic racism, both de jure and de facto, that African Americans have faced for over 400 years;

Kaliah Linear,  
Ward 1

WHEREAS, we celebrate the freedoms that have been won by generations of brave and persistent African American activists and leaders, including persons who were enslaved and fought for liberation;

Janessa Marquette,  
Ward 2

Emily Peterson,  
Ward 3

WHEREAS, approximately 16% of City of St. Paul residents are Black, and the history, culture and accomplishments of Black residents are worthy of recognition and celebration;

Erika Sanders,  
Ward 4

WHEREAS, the St. Paul City Council is responsible for setting City policy through ordinances and resolutions, including those that designate City holidays;

Christopher Smith,  
Ward 2

Jim Thayer,  
Ward 1

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The St. Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission fully supports the Mayor’s decision to formally observe Juneteenth on Friday, June 18, 2021. We also urge the City to ensure that Juneteenth Day receives the status of an official City holiday going forward.

Eva Wailes,  
Ward 4

Sincerely,

James Wilkinson,  
Ward 3

City of St. Paul HREEO Commissioners