

**IN RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH AS
NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY: A DAY OF OBSERVANCE
June 19, 2020**

***WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led troops into Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War, and the insidious institution of slavery; and*

***WHEREAS**, The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln, had legally freed slaves in Texas on January 1, 1863, almost 2 ½ years earlier. Even after the general order, some slave masters withheld the information from their slaves, holding them as slaves through one more harvest season; and*

***WHEREAS**, as word spread about Granger’s announcement, celebrations broke out across the state. Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) commemorates this day, which marked the effective end of slavery in the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, that December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment; and*

***WHEREAS**, in the ensuing decades, Juneteenth commemoration features music, barbeques, prayer services and other activities, and as black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country the Juneteenth tradition spread ; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Today, 47 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday; and*

***WHEREAS**, the thousands of African Americans who journeyed out of the south and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, taught our state that American’s struggle for independence did not end in 1776 or 1865, but continues to this day; and*

***WHEREAS**, today, Juneteenth is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future, and it reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Mayor Garbarino and the City Council of the City of South San Francisco urge all South San Franciscans to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.*

Richard Garbarino, Mayor

Mark Addiego, Vice Mayor

Karyl Matsumoto, Council Member

Mark Nagales, Council Member

Buenafior Nicolas, Council Member