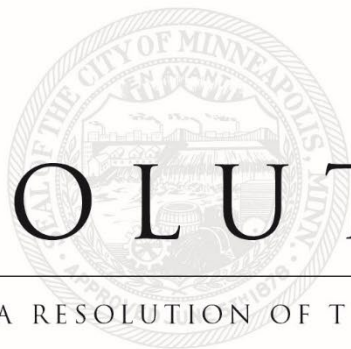




RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Vetaw, Payne, Wonsley, Rainville, Warren, Osman, Shaffer, Stevenson, Chavez, Chughtai, Whiting, Chowdhury, and Palmisano

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF JUNETEENTH IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

- Whereas: On June 19, 1865, in the State of Texas, where it was believed to be the last of enslaved people of African descent still held in human bondage, received news of their freedom and entitlement to natural born human rights under the law which had actually been bestowed upon them two and a half years earlier when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863; and
- Whereas: Later that year, on December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, was ratified by Congress; and
- Whereas: Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the plunder of Black bodies and Black wealth continued past slavery and persists to this day, disproportionately affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and education of Black Americans; and
- Whereas: The current state of disparities is in direct correlation with the institution of slavery that continues to undergird our local and national economy; and
- Whereas: The City has committed to deepening its work to institute policies and practices that will repair the harm experienced by people of African descent over the last 400 years as a result of the legacy of slavery and racism; and
- Whereas: The City of Minneapolis recognizes the extent of the harm done and is taking active steps to reverse and repair the harm by adopting and implementing our strategic racial equity action plan, creating and increasing systemic change to public safety responses that includes unarmed and non-police safety response for certain emergencies and for crime prevention, passing and implementing a Resolution declaring racism as a public health emergency with several policy changes, formalizing and implementing a Truth and Reconciliation process, building out affordable housing with historic investment, creating inclusive economic development policies, and working to improve authentic engagement and build trust between community and city officials; and
- Whereas: June 19th has since come to be known as Juneteenth and is one of the oldest celebrations in America growing out of the experiences of Black Americans and their enslaved ancestors and is a celebration of the ending of chattel slavery in America with the first “official” Juneteenth celebration taking place in Texas in 1866; and
- Whereas: Juneteenth provides an opportunity for the City to celebrate Black American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices and contributions that are woven into the American fabric; and
- Whereas: On May 14, 2021, just prior to adoption by the United States Congress the following month, the Minneapolis City Council, by ordinance, officially declared Juneteenth a City holiday to be honored with a paid day off for City employees and to be recognized by everyone in Minneapolis; and
- Whereas: The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, recognizes and celebrates the week of Juneteenth with activities to commemorate June 19, 1865, and lighting of the I-35W bridge; and
- Whereas: Michelle Gibson Webb's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to community empowerment helped establish and grow one of Minnesota's largest Juneteenth celebrations, creating a lasting tradition that honors the history of emancipation while advancing cultural pride, economic opportunity, and community unity; and
- Whereas: Her dedication to preserving and elevating the significance of Juneteenth in Minneapolis has left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire generations and strengthen the community she so faithfully served;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby honor and recognize June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth, the national African American Independence Holiday in commemoration of the Resistance and Liberation of African Americans in the City of Minneapolis and in the nation.

Passed this the Eleventh Day of June 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk