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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

June 21, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with the Black Caucus, City Clerk Valencia, Aldermen Villegas, Cruz, Chico, Rodriguez, O'Shea, Nugent, Vasquez, Lawson, Sigcho-Lopez, Hopkins, Waguespack, Manaa-Hoppenworth and La Spata, a resolution honoring Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJ", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and communities across the United States celebrate June 19 of each year as Juneteenth, the oldest recognized observation of the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all persons held as slaves within the Confederate States “are, and henceforward shall be free”; and

**WHEREAS**, following Robert E. Lee’s surrender in April of 1865, and over two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to free 250,000 enslaved Black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger issued an order enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas and freeing all remaining enslaved people in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, on Juneteenth, the United States commemorates that day, honors the millions of victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, and celebrates abolitionists who worked toward the emancipation of all Black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States also recognizes the generations of activists who advocated and built support for observances of this holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago recognized Juneteenth as a day of observance in 2020 and as an official City holiday beginning in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021, the President signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, making June 19 a federal holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 9, 2021, Public Act 102-0334 became law in the State of Illinois, making Juneteenth National Freedom Day an official State holiday, school holiday, and bank holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago recognizes that the observation of Juneteenth is only part of an ongoing commitment to eradicating systemic racism and inequity, and to ensuring racial justice, equity, and equality in our great City; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-first day of June, 2023, do hereby recognize June 19 as Juneteenth in the City of Chicago, and encourage all Chicagoans to acknowledge and condemn the history of slavery in the United States and to recognize and reflect on its grievous and ongoing legacy.