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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL  
OAKLAND

City Attorney

2004 JUN 10 AM 7:57

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

**DRAFT**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DESLEY BROOKS**

**TITLE: ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING JUNE 19, 2004  
JUNETEENTH DAY IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND RECOGNIZING  
THE RICH HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF THE AFRICAN  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY.**

Whereas **Juneteenth** is an expression and extension of African American history and, like the Fourth of July, a time for all Americans to celebrate our continued struggle for independence, human rights, civil rights and freedom; and

Whereas **Juneteenth** began in the state of Texas when Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army led his troops into the city of Galveston There, on **June 19, 1865**, he officially proclaimed freedom for slaves in that state; and

Whereas Granger's ride through Galveston culminated a two-and-a-half year trek through America's deep south. But many states, parishes and counties had been excluded from learning of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, leaving millions of African American slaves without their freedom; and

Whereas on June 19<sup>th</sup> African American slaves of Texas and other parts of the South celebrated the final execution of the Emancipation Proclamation, giving them their freedom forever; and

Whereas the former slaves of Galveston were quick to establish what was to become a tradition for African American communities across the United States. One the evening of June 19, 1865, thousands flooded the streets of Galveston, rejoicing in their newly-announced freedom. This day, **Juneteenth**, would forever commemorate African American Freedom; and

Whereas **Juneteenth** provided the opportunity to express to young and old alike the fact that African Americans are a proud people with past, present and future contributions to American society; and

Whereas as African Americans from Texas and other parts of the South began to migrate to the North, East and West, they took with them the tradition of **Juneteenth**, spreading the word that African American Freedom has roots in the celebration of **Juneteenth**; and

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Whereas, the celebration of **Juneteenth** acknowledges the price, history, culture and freedom of an important part of American society and helps to unify the nation as a whole.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, the City Council, of the City of Oakland, California, do hereby declare June 19, 2004:

**“Juneteenth Day”**

in the City of Oakland, and do hereby encourage all of the citizens in the city of Oakland to acknowledge the day accordingly.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, April 8, 2004

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

CEDA FLOYD  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California

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