

**DRAFT**

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City Attorney's Office

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**

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

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER TREVA REID**

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL - 1655 (JONES-SAWYER, MIA BONTA, AND AKILAH WEBER), WHICH WOULD ADD JUNE 19, KNOWN AS "JUNETEENTH," TO THE LIST OF STATE HOLIDAYS AND WOULD AUTHORIZE STATE EMPLOYEES TO ELECT TO TAKE TIME OFF WITH PAY IN RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH, AS SPECIFIED**

**WHEREAS**, Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D., is joined by Assemblymembers Reginald Jones-Sawyer and Mia Bonta in introducing AB 1655, a bill that would recognize "Juneteenth," or June 19th, as a paid state holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 16th, 2021 Congress passed legislation establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a US federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, making Juneteenth a federal holiday. Juneteenth is a paid state holiday in nine states, including Texas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Oregon, and Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1655 would amend current statutes to include June 19th as an official state holiday for public schools, community colleges, and California State University systems. It would also extend to University of California systems, and grant paid time-off to all state employees; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freeing enslaved African Americans in secessionist states. However, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, would not learn of their freedom until two years later; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 19th, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led troops into Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the insidious institution of slavery. As a result, thousands of enslaved people in Texas were among the last to be informed of their liberation; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate this glorious day in history. The celebrations that

began in Texas spread across the country, with cities and communities in California joining to celebrate this milestone in the American journey to freedom for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an expression of pride where we celebrate overcoming centuries of struggle and the courage that has gone forth throughout our history by abolitionists, educators, civil rights advocates, lawyers, trade unionists, public officials, and everyday Americans who have helped make the ideals of our founding documents a reality for all humans in this country, unifying the nation as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an extension of the history of African Americans in America, where, like the Fourth of July, all Americans gather to celebrate our collective and continued struggle for human and civil rights, freedom, and independence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses AB 1655 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

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

ASHA REED  
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California