

Resolution #20-0360
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RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, at the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, staff was asked to provide information related to establishing Juneteenth as a City paid holiday; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has authority to modify the personnel resolution; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the country's longest-running observance of the abolition of slavery; and

WHEREAS, this holiday commemorates the emancipation of slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, after Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas. The slaves in this region were the last to learn of their freedom. Initially celebrated in Texas, where it is now observed as a state holiday, the celebration of Juneteenth has gradually spread across the nation; and

WHEREAS, every year, June 19 marks the day that African Americans exercised independence from those who benefitted from their labors in the founding of this nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States is currently witnessing injustices to African Americans creating pain and anguish due to generations of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, the City values diversity and inclusion in the community and is committed to identifying actionable items to improve policies and procedures that allow access to opportunities and ensure employees do not experience inequities in City government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem that Juneteenth shall be recognized as a paid holiday for City government employees with a date to be determined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council that the following amendments to the Personnel Resolution are approved:

Article III. Benefits, Section 43 Legal Holidays is hereby amended to include the observance of Juneteenth as a legal holiday:

Sec. 43. - Legal holidays.

- (a) The following and such other days as the city council may authorize are holidays with pay for all eligible employees of the city: New Year's Day, the third Monday in January for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth (date to be determined), Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day, ~~and a day to be designated by the city manager.~~