

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA DATE: June 22, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Aleksandra Anello, 915-212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: (Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments)

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to approve a resolution recognizing June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth Independence Day and recognizing organizations and citizens of El Paso who celebrate this important day to our nation.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

N/A

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all slaves free; however, this freedom was not made known to many enslaved Black Americans until two years after its passage; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes that on June 19, 1865, the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were informed that slavery had been abolished, and Black Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; 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, Juneteenth also acknowledges America’s commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, along with the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery, ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, the candid acknowledgement of this history is necessary if we, as a nation, state, or city, are successful in our effort to build a truly equitable community that exemplifies and promotes the fundamental American values of freedom, diversity, equality, liberty, and justice; and

WHEREAS, there are many individuals and organizations around the City of El Paso, such as Black El Paso Voice and the Inter Club Council of El Paso, who focus their efforts to promote Black American voices and culture as well as to preserve Black American history and struggles;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the City of El Paso recognizes June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth Independence Day in celebration of the culturally important role of emancipation and the work towards that liberation in our past, present and future; and recognizes and commends the efforts of organizations like Black El Paso Voice and the Inter Club Council of El Paso for promoting and preserving Black American culture in the City of El Paso.

(Signatures on the following page)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk



Karla Muñoz
Assistant City Attorney