

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 2798

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, DECLARING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH DAY IN THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, A FREEDOM MILESTONE IN AMERICA'S QUEST TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated under many names. Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Cel-Liberation Day, Second Independence Day, and Emancipation Day to name just a few, all which commemorated the same date and the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Civil War ended in the summer of 1865. Union General Gordon Granger and his troops traveled to Galveston, Texas to announce General Orders No. 3 on June 19, 1865. June 19th would go on to be known and celebrated as Juneteenth;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, celebrations of Juneteenth date back to 1866, first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas, and then spreading across the South and becoming more popular in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, Juneteenth celebrations were eclipsed by the struggle for postwar civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African American freedom and arts; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides all Americans with an important opportunity to thoughtfully reflect upon the tumultuous past and promising dream imagined in the Declaration of Independences' ideal, of a 'more perfect union.' That noble aspiration of a more perfect union has included enormous strides by African

Americans over the years, which have of late, resulted in the election of an African American United States President – twice - and more recently, an African American woman as Vice President of the United States. These, among many other significant examples, are welcome and long overdue successes, which Black America has achieved, in a country, which for too long held black Americans back. This important date is celebrated in many major cities in the United State and is recognized as a state holiday in 47 of the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Commission of the Town of Surfside recognize and respect the significance of this day of hope and promise. A day which affords an opportunity for the citizens of the United States to honor and reflect on the outstanding progress and contributions African Americans have made, the role they've played in the history of the United States and the lessons they've taught us with their steadfast commitment to promoting love, unity, resilience, persistence, strength, independence and freedom. Finally, let us not forget Martin Luther King, Jr.'s electrifying message, 98 years after Juneteenth had occurred, dreaming that one day; "all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" Let us ensure that it shall be so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. The above-stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Declaration. The Mayor and Town Commission hereby declare June 19, 2021 as "Juneteenth Independence Day," in the Town of Surfside.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 2021.

Motion By: Commissioner Kesl


Second By: Commissioner Velasquez

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION


Commissioner Charles Kesl	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**


Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney

¹ CIVIL WAR | ARTICLE 10 Facts: Juneteenth June 12, 2020 • Updated June 2, 2021
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-juneteenth>