

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19TH, 2024 AS
JUNETEENTH DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY**

WHEREAS, *President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, decreeing all enslaved people be “henceforward” free; however, a significant portion of many southern enslavers ignored that order; and*

WHEREAS, *Union General Gordon Granger was dispatched to Galveston, Texas, to announce the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and, on June 19, 1865, enforced the president’s 1863 order, General Order #3, freeing stolen Africans and some Indigenous people still held in human bondage in the State of Texas, two and a half years after it was first decreed; and*

WHEREAS, *General Granger and his troops were joined by 5,000 – 10,000 additional soldiers from the 28th Indiana, 29th Illinois, and combined New York and 31st Regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops, USCT, that dropped anchor on June 18 in Galveston Bay, and provided a powerful image to the island’s enslaved people; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1865, President Lincoln said, “without the military help of the black freedmen, the war against the South could not have been won;” and*

WHEREAS, *June 19 has since come to be known as Juneteenth and is one of the oldest celebrations in America, growing out of the experiences of Black Americans and their enslaved African ancestors and is a celebration of the ending of chattel slavery in America with the first “official” Juneteenth celebration taking place in Texas in 1866; and*

WHEREAS, *through years of advocacy and commitment both nationally and locally to push for the recognition of this important history, Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, and the State of Utah passed legislation in 2022 to recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday on June 19; and*

WHEREAS, *Juneteenth provides an opportunity for Salt Lake City to celebrate Black American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices, and contributions that are woven into the American fabric, while also committing to do our part to help build a more equitable community; 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, *through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and the prison industrial complex, the plunder of Black bodies and Black wealth continued past slavery and persists to this day, disproportionately affecting the physical and mental well-being, safety, and education of Black Americans; and*

WHEREAS, *the candid acknowledgment 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, *both the federal government and the State of Utah now recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday on June 19.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City recognize June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth Freedom Day in Salt Lake City in celebration of the cultural, economic, and humanitarian role of emancipation and the work toward that liberation in our past, present, and future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that Salt Lake City emphasizes the freedom and dignity of every human being and opposes and rejects any form of oppression.

Adopted this 11th day of June 2024

Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor

Victoria Petro, Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One

Chris Wharton, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three

Alejandro Puy
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two

Eva Lopez Chavez
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four

Darin Mano
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Five

Dan Dugan
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Six

Sarah Young
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven