

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**June 16, 2021****A RESOLUTION TO EDUCATE AND COMMEMORATE JUNE 19TH, 2021 OR
“JUNETEENTH” AS A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBERATION****Introduced by the Ways & Means Committee**

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Barnes.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, “Emancipation Day”, and “Freedom Day” is the oldest African American holiday in observance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite the Emancipation Proclamation being issued on January 1, 1863, effectively freeing all slaves in rebelling states, slavery was still practiced until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19th 1865 issuing General Order #3 freeing the last slaves; and

WHEREAS, slavery was finally and forever banished with the ratification of the 13th amendment to the United States in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, the freeing of the last slaves in Galveston, Texas led to celebrations in the streets in Galveston, marking the first ever Juneteenth celebration; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth education and celebrations declined in the early 20th century, but the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s revived the idea and need for Juneteenth education efforts; and

WHEREAS, numerous cities and neighborhoods in the Greater Lansing area have begun sanctioned and sponsored Juneteenth events, offering opportunities not only for celebration, but reflection on past and present race relations and planning for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Eaton County Board of Commissioners and the County as a whole recognizes June 19th 2021 as Juneteenth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners encourage citizens to participate in celebrations and reflect on this historic event. Carried unanimously.