



Juneteenth Holiday

Presented by

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Public Hearing – May 4, 2021



WHAT IS JUNETEENTH

- On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain.
- Almost 87 years later, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."
- Over 2 years later, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas and told the enslaved that they were free.
- Juneteenth signifies freedom and liberation for African Americans in the United States
- Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.



JUNETEENTH - COUNTY HOLIDAY

- Staff requests consideration adding this holiday
- Review Holiday Schedule through a racial equity lens
- Includes July 4th as commemoration of *American Independence*
- *No additional budget required.*
 - *Employees required to work, will bank their holiday time*
- Mandatory Services will be maintained (as with other holidays)



RESEARCH & CONSIDERATIONS

Pro's:

- Represents an authentic and more inclusive history of America
- Celebration of Independence in America and freedom
- Opportunity to recognize the reality of what the American experience has been for African American people who live in the United States
- Celebration of the African American experience (struggle and resiliency)
- Acknowledgement & reconciliation can initiate unity and peace in America
- Encourage other jurisdictions and entities to add the holiday



RESEARCH & CONSIDERATIONS

Con's:

- Shows a complicated American history and may be considered divisive
- May be considered an unwanted reminder of a harsh past
- Inquiry of what other marginalized groups have a commemoration of American independence

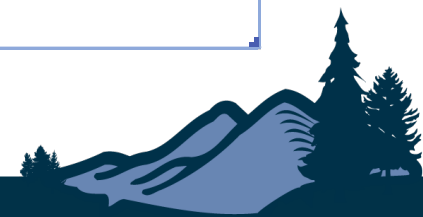
Provides an opportunity to educate the community as a whole



PUBLIC ENTITY RESPONSE

THE DAY IS OBSERVED AS A CEREMONIAL HOLIDAY IN 47 STATES, INCLUDING NORTH CAROLINA

Municipality or County?	Location	Name	Action	Number of Holidays
County	NC	Bertie County	Yes	13 (including Juneteenth)
County	NC	Northampton County	Yes	13
County	NC	Orange County	Yes	12 (No veterans day)
County	NC	Wake County	Yes	14 holidays - 2021
Municipality	NC	Apex	Yes	13
Municipality	NC	Carrboro	Yes	12 (including Juneteenth)
Municipality	NC	Chapel Hill	Yes	13
Municipality	NC	City of Durham	Yes	12-13, depending on Christmas beginning 2021
Municipality	NC	Greensboro	Yes	13
Municipality	NC	Hillsborough	Yes	13 (including Juneteenth) Beginning 2021
Municipality	NC	OWASA (Orange)	Yes	12
Municipality	NC	Princeville	Yes	13
Municipality	NC	Raleigh	Yes	13
Municipality	NC	Winston-Salem	Yes	13 Trying to decide if new day or replace Christmas Eve. Also celebrates Presidents day & boxing day



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

- Add Juneteenth as the 13th County Holiday
 - Friday on or before June 19th
 - Effective June 18th, 2021
- Educational Campaign:
 - Why Juneteenth is important
 - Highlight our progress and intentional work to advance racial equity
 - Illustrate continued commitment to equity

