

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States, celebrating that day in history, June 19th, 1865; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two- and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and Black/African American individuals in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to The Black and African American community, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Black history is a part of The United States' history and is important to celebrate as we create safe spaces, representation, inclusion and empowerment for the Black community in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, this holiday is especially important for Humboldt County, as this community makes up a very small percentage of the population that have and continue to experience various forms of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Black Humboldt and the Eureka Chapter of the NAACP will be hosting a virtual celebration on June 19th starting at 11:30am as well as an in-person option on the Arcata Plaza between 2-7pm. This year's celebration will feature Black artist performances, vending from Black owned businesses, keynote speakers, workshops and music and all members of the community are encouraged to support and attend the event.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors urges the recognition and of this federal holiday and the significance of this celebration in American History and lineage of those who helped build this country.

DATED: June 15, 2021

Virginia Bass, Chair

