

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE JUNE  
19<sup>TH</sup> AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY," A  
FEDERAL HOLIDAY TO BE RECOGNIZED EACH  
YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery; and

WHEREAS, despite the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, news of the end of slavery did not travel to certain regions of the United States for more than two years afterwards; and

WHEREAS, on or about June 19, 1865, federal authorities arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform slaves that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, following emancipation, former slaves and their descendants continued to commemorate "Juneteenth" each June 19th, recognizing the emancipation of all slaves in the United States and celebrating freedom; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Florida officially designated June 19 of each year as "Juneteenth Day" to commemorate the freeing of slaves within the state; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has previously demonstrated strong bipartisan support in recognizing "Juneteenth Independence Day," evidenced by the introduction of Senate Resolution 253, House Resolution 448, and House Resolution 450 in June 2019,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission of the City of Key West hereby urges members of the U.S. Congress to recognize June 19th, as a Federal Holiday, to be recognized each year as "Juneteenth Independence Day."

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to submit certified copies of this Resolution to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Mayor Teri Johnston \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Gregory Davila \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Clayton Lopez \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Billy Wardlow \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK