

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Janelle Crary  
INITIATED BY



6/6/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

**Recognizing June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Celebration**

**WHEREAS**, after the Union Army captured New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Confederate states migrated to Texas with more than 150,000 enslaved Black persons and for three years, even after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved Black Americans in Texas remained in brutal bondage, immorally and illegally deprived of their freedom and basic dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865 — over 2 years after President Lincoln declared all enslaved persons free — Major General Gordon Granger and Union Army troops marched to Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and free the last enslaved Black Americans in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, those who were freed from bondage celebrated their long-overdue emancipation on June 19. Today, our Nation commemorates Juneteenth: a chance to celebrate human freedom, reflect on the grievous and ongoing legacy of slavery, and rededicate ourselves to rooting out the systemic racism that continues to plague our society as we strive to deliver the full promise of America to every American; and

**WHEREAS**, this Juneteenth, we are freshly reminded that the poisonous ideology of racism has not yet been defeated. We must stand together against white supremacy and show that bigotry and hate have no safe harbor in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to reflect on both bondage and freedom — a day of both pain and purpose. It is, in equal measure, a remembrance of both the long, hard night of slavery and subjugation, as well as a celebration of the promise of a brighter morning to come. On Juneteenth, we remember our extraordinary capacity to heal, to hope, and to emerge from our worst moments as a stronger, freer, and more just Nation. It is also a day to celebrate the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America; and

**WHEREAS**, the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans was not the end of our Nation’s work to deliver on the promise of equality — it was only the beginning. On Juneteenth, we recommit to our shared work to ensure racial justice, equity, and equality in America. We commemorate the centuries of struggle and progress led by abolitionists, educators, civil rights advocates, lawyers, activists, trade unionists, religious leaders, public officials, and everyday Americans who have brought our Nation closer to fulfilling its promise; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 22nd day of June, 2023 does hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Day and call upon the residents of Rock County to acknowledge and condemn the history of slavery in our Nation and recognize how the impact of America’s original sin remains; to celebrate the emancipation of all Black Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism and inequity that can never be tolerated and must always be fought against.

**Committee Action**

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.