



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RICHARD VALLE  
Supervisor, District 2

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES TO PROVIDE A REPORT WITH OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING JUNETEENTH A COUNTY HOLIDAY**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct the County Administrator and Human Resource Services to provide a report to the Board of Supervisors with options for consideration of declaring Juneteenth a county holiday, beginning June 19, 2022.

### **DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:**

On June 7, 2011, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. R-2011-177 to formally apologize for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans. On June 19, 2020 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors recognized Juneteenth with respect to those who have sacrificed for freedom – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture. On October 6, 2020 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. R-2020-412 seeking community reparations for African Americans and pledged to address legislative, social, and economic inequities faced by African Americans.

The Board's 2020 recognition and resolution were adopted in the wake of national and local protests over the murder of George Floyd and continued discrimination, inequities, and oppression faced by African Americans. The District Two Office received a request from local community leaders and civil rights organizations asking the County to consider initiating observance of Juneteenth as an official county holiday.

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of the Civil War and issue the order freeing the remaining slaves in Texas. This was 30 months and 19 days after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official on January 1, 1863. This historic moment and the ensuing celebration was coined "Juneteenth" and would serve as ongoing motivation to recount memories and focus on education and self-improvement.

Observance of Juneteenth as a County holiday continues our Board's acknowledgement of the inequities faced by African Americans and including it alongside Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a recognized county holiday is significant in memorializing it as a day to acknowledge,

reflect, and educate. Many local jurisdictions acknowledge and commemorate Juneteenth, including the East Bay Regional Park District and City of Oakland. However, few formerly recognize Juneteenth as an official paid holiday. Alameda County would join Santa Clara County as the first two counties in California to recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday.

It is recommended that the Board direct the County Administrator's Office and Human Resource Services to provide a report to our Board, by October 1, 2021, detailing options for establishing Juneteenth as a paid county holiday commencing on June 19, 2022. The report should include, but not be limited to: review of current paid county holidays, survey of surrounding jurisdiction holiday schedule, cost of adding an additional paid county holiday, options for replacing an existing paid county holiday, bargaining unit considerations.

**FINANCING:**

County Administration and Human Resource Services is being asked to report back on the fiscal implications, as they are unknown at this time.

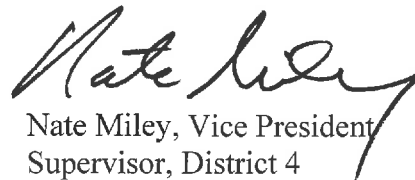
**VISION 2026 GOAL:**

The creation of Juneteenth as an official county holiday meets the 10x goal of **Employment for All: Model Excellence** in support of our shared vision of a **Thriving and Resilient Population**.

Sincerely,



Richard Valle  
Supervisor, District 2



Nate Miley, Vice President  
Supervisor, District 4

cc: Auditor-Controller  
County Administrator  
County Counsel