



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Snohomish County, Washington**

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-027**

**RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2023, AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY  
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day on June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Texas were informed that slavery was abolished and they were free, more than two years after their freedom had been secured by the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and*

*WHEREAS, the year following the 1865 emancipation, freedmen in Texas organized the first celebration of “Jubilee Day” in celebration of the arrival of the news of their freedom. In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday, and*

*WHEREAS, enslaved people left a legacy of determination, strength, heroism, hope, and resistance. Juneteenth is a day to reflect on both bondage and freedom, a remembrance of the awful legacy of slavery and a celebration of the promise of freedom that came with emancipation; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth is our shared opportunity to celebrate the power and resilience of Black and African American people, who have endured generations of oppression and transformed their pain into common resolve that has expanded democracy, justice, dignity, and opportunity to millions of Americans; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth also serves as a reminder that the poisonous ideology of racism has not yet been defeated, Black and African American people in our community and throughout the nation continue to face discrimination and disproportionate outcomes in areas including housing, education, health, and criminal justice involvement; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day for all Snohomish County residents to reflect on the horrors of slavery, to acknowledge the evils of hate, racism, discrimination, and injustice; and to commit to being unwavering allies to Black and African American people living, working, and playing here; and*


*WHEREAS, Snohomish County values the numerous contributions Black and African American people have made to our nation and local community through sharing their history, heritage, culture, and talents; and*


*WHEREAS, Snohomish County is the proud home of the state’s only legislative delegation composed entirely of Black legislators: Sen. John Lovick, Rep. Brandy Donaghy and Rep. April Berg of the 44<sup>th</sup> District, who have made substantial contributions to improve our community; and*


*WHEREAS, in honor of Juneteenth and the many contributions Black and African American people have made, June 19<sup>th</sup> is now both a state and federal holiday;*

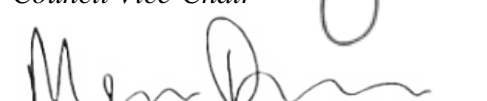
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Snohomish County Council does hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth in Snohomish County and encourages residents, visitors, and businesses to join Snohomish County Government in celebrating Juneteenth at one of the many community events being held in celebration this month.


**APPROVED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jared Mead**  
Council Chair

  
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**Nate Nehring**  
Council Vice-Chair

  
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**Sam Low**  
Councilmember

  
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**Megan Dunn**  
Councilmember

ATTEST:   
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**Elena Lao, CMC**  
Deputy Clerk of the Council