



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 24-033

**RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2024, AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day on June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Texas learned 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, newly freed people 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 terrible 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 is also a reminder that the toxic 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 and working 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 44th 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 19th is now both a state and federal holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council does hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth Independence Day 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 18th day of June, 2024.

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

ATTEST:

Elena Lao, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Council