

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: April 27, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-107

Juneteenth Holiday Adoption, Resolution No. 2022-08

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Statute or policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Charles A. Zelle, Chair, 651-602-1390
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Regional Administration

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Resolution No. 2022-08, declaring Juneteenth as an official Council holiday and directing the Regional Administrator to implement all necessary actions to meet this declaration.

### Background

Last year, Governor Tim Walz recognized June 19 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the State of Minnesota. This action was preceded by President Joe Biden signing into law recognizing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day, creating a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

### Rationale

Juneteenth is an important opportunity for Council employees to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, honor African Americans and their freedom, and commit to growing from the tragedies of the past.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This action supports Equity by demonstrating Council commitment to recognize this important historical milestone and celebrate the culture and achievements of African Americans across the region.

### Funding

Funding for the holiday will be covered through Council department budgets.

### Small Business Inclusion

Information in this section must be completed by the Office of Equal Opportunity.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08**  
**RESOLUTION DECLARING JUNETEENTH AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to enslaved people in the Confederate states; however, many southern slave owners ignored that order until Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and on June 19, 1865, declared the immediate release and freedom of the remainder of enslaved people more than two and a half years after it was first decreed; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 became known as Juneteenth Independence Day, or Juneteenth, and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrations continue today and emphasize justice, education, achievement, and tolerance; and

**WHEREAS**, it has become clear as we witness and reflect on the tragic killings of Black Americans across the country and here in the Twin Cities that we have failed Black Minnesotans and must learn from these experiences of injustice and racism and challenge ourselves to build a better region for all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council acknowledges and understands our historic and present role in perpetuating the system of racism and injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council believes being anti-racist means disrupting the status quo and investing in different approaches, different voices, and asking more critical questions to dismantle systemic racism and address regional disparities experienced by people of color and indigenous people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council's Equity Policy requires us to instill equity in the organization's operations and lead by example in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 is a U.S. federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, and the state of Minnesota honors the Juneteenth observance with a proclamation from the governor; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that an important part of building an equitable and anti-racist organization is reflection and education; and

**WHEREAS** we want our employees to engage in and feel ownership of our equity work and we want to encourage them to reflect on and expand their own knowledge of equity and the impact of racial disparities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Metropolitan Council declares Juneteenth as an annual paid holiday for Metropolitan Council employees beginning in 2022 and directs the Regional Administrator to implement all necessary actions to meet this declaration.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2022.

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Charles A. Zelle, Chair

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Liz Sund, Recording Secretary

