

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2009 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-36-2009
Proposed by Council Member Dean
Introduced by Council Members Dean, Bland, Campos, Dernoga, Exum, Harrison,
Olson and Turner
Date of Introduction June 16, 2009

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Juneteenth National Holiday Campaign and Observance

3 For the purpose of expressing support for the Juneteenth National Holiday Campaign and
4 Observance.

5 WHEREAS, approximately eleven and a half million African-Americans survived the
6 “Middle Passage,” a month-long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean stacked in the bottom of slave
7 ships and were subjected to more than 200 years of slavery upon arrival in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was
9 signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, on June 19, 1865, Major General
10 Gordon Granger issued General Order Number 3, declaring that, in accordance with the
11 Emancipation Proclamation, all enslaved people were free with an “absolute equality of rights
12 and rights of property between former masters and those enslaved”; and

13 WHEREAS, Juneteenth, or June 19, is celebrated each year as the date when the last
14 enslaved people in the United States were freed and commemorates the spontaneous celebration
15 that erupted among African-Americans upon learning of their freedom; and

16 WHEREAS, after more than 130 years of its annual celebration, Juneteenth has been
17 officially recognized by the President and the Congress of the United States as Juneteenth
18 Independence Day; and

19 WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries of origin
20 share a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as a determination to protect their right
21 to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the tenets of freedom are guaranteed and
22 protected. The nineteenth of June, or “Juneteenth Independence Day,” coupled with

1 Independence Day on the fourth of July, completes the “cycle of freedom” for America’s
2 Independence Day observances.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
4 County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County hereby expresses support for the National
5 Juneteenth Holiday Campaign.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby expresses support for the
7 Juneteenth celebration to be held in Prince George’s County and encourages participation of
8 employees, families and communities in this observance on the “20th of June” at Walker Mill
9 Regional Park in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

Adopted this 16th day of June, 2009.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Marilynn M. Bland
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council