

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2016 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-45-2016

Proposed by Council Member Davis

Introduced by Council Members Davis, Toles, Lehman, Harrison, Turner, Glaros,
Franklin and Patterson

Date of Introduction June 7, 2016

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Juneteenth National Freedom Day Observance

3 For the purpose of expressing support for the Juneteenth National Freedom Day Observance and
4 Celebration.

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, Major General Gordon Granger
10 issued General Order Number 3, on June 19, 1865, 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; and

3 WHEREAS, the County Council of Prince George’s County, Maryland has expressed
4 support yearly for the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign; and

5 WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Maryland enacted legislation during the 2014
6 Legislative Session requiring the Governor annually to proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth National
7 Freedom Day; and

8 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day, which recalls how slaves hated slavery and
9 celebrated its abolishment with excitement and great joy, serves as a reminder to all Americans
10 of the status and importance of Americans of African descent.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George’s
12 County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County hereby expresses support for Juneteenth
13 National Freedom Day.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby supports Juneteenth celebrations
15 held in Prince George’s County and applauds the participation of employees, families and
16 communities in the observance held on June 18, 2016 at Walker Mill Regional Park.

Adopted this 7th day of June , 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick Leon Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council