

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2004 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-43-2004

Proposed by Council Members Dean, Knotts, Dernoga, Exum, Harrington,
Peters and Shapiro

Introduced by Council Members Dean, Knotts, Dernoga, Exum, Harrington, Peters
Shapiro, Bland and Hendershot

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction June 15, 2004

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Juneteenth National Holiday Campaign and Observance

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

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

WHEREAS, more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1863, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger issued General Order Number 3, declaring that, in accordance with the Emancipation Proclamation, all slaves were free with an “absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves”; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries of origin share a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as a determination to protect their right

1 to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the tenets of freedom are guaranteed and
2 protected. The nineteenth of June, or “Juneteenth Independence Day,” coupled with
3 Independence Day on the fourth of July, completes the “cycle of freedom” for America’s
4 Independence Day observances.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
6 County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County hereby expresses support for the National
7 Juneteenth Holiday Campaign and encourages participation of employees, families and
8 communities during the annual Washington, D.C., Juneteenth National Holiday Observance on
9 June 16 through June 20, 2004.

Adopted this 15th day of June, 2004.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Tony Knotts
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council