

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2018 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-39-2018

Proposed by Council Member Davis

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

Date of Introduction June 5, 2018

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Juneteenth National Freedom Day Observance

3 For the purpose of expressing support for the celebration of Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, after more than 150 years of its annual celebration, Juneteenth has been officially  
16 recognized by the President and the Congress of the United States as Juneteenth Independence Day;  
17 and

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

23 WHEREAS, the County Council of Prince George’s County, Maryland has expressed support

1 yearly for the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations include special foods, an education and self-improvement  
9 focus and a range of activities such as rodeos, fishing, barbecuing, baseball, and prayer services; and

10 WHEREAS, as part of the Juneteenth celebration this year, the Afro-American Historical  
11 and Genealogical Society, Inc. Prince George's County, Maryland Chapter (ASHGS-PGCM), the  
12 Prince George's County Historical Society in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park  
13 and Planning Commission will host at the Watkins Regional Park Nature Center on June 16, 2018  
14 beginning at 8:30 a.m. their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration Seminar, "Footprints and Roots" that  
15 includes a series of lectures and workshops on genealogy and history designed to be of interest to  
16 beginning and advanced researches, including all-day sessions for children, youth and adults; and

17 WHEREAS, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host on  
18 Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 12 noon until 5:00 p.m. the 2018 Juneteenth National Freedom Day  
19 celebration at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland featuring  
20 entertainment, vendors and activities for the entire family.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
22 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council hereby expresses support for  
23 Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George's County Council hereby supports  
25 the 2018 Juneteenth Celebration held in Prince George's County and applauds all participants and  
26 encourages the participation of employees, families and communities in the observance held on  
27 Saturday, June 16, 2018 at Watkins Regional Park.

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June , 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dannielle M. Glaros  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council