

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-72-2021

Proposed by Council Member Davis

Introduced by Council Members Davis, Hawkins, Turner, Streeter, Ivey, Glaros,
Anderson-Walker, Dernoga, Harrison, Franklin and Taveras

Date of Introduction June 15, 2021

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
5 “Middle Passage,” a month-long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean stacked in the bottom of slave
6 ships and 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
8 signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, Major General Gordon Granger
9 issued General Order Number 3, on June 19, 1865, declaring that, in accordance with the
10 Emancipation Proclamation, all enslaved people were free with an “absolute equality of rights
11 and rights of property between former masters and those enslaved”; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries of origin
19 share a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as a determination to protect their right
20 to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the tenets of freedom are guaranteed and
21 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 Prince George’s County Executive and Council enacted CB-58-2020
6 establishing June 19th as Juneteenth Day to be observed as a regular County holiday in Prince
7 George’s County; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, due to the current Coronavirus/COVID-19 Global Pandemic, the Maryland-
18 National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host the 2021 Juneteenth National Freedom
19 Day Celebration on June 19, 2021, with both virtual and limited attendance in-person
20 components, including music, dance, storytelling, workshops, an art exhibition, and more.

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 2021 Juneteenth Celebration held virtually in Prince George’s County and applauds all
26 participants and encourages the participation of employees, families and communities in both the
27 virtual and limited attendance in-person observance held on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Adopted this 15th day of June, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council