

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2020 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-52-2020

Proposed by Council Member Davis

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

Date of Introduction June 16, 2020

**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 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  
9 and celebrated its abolishment with excitement and great joy, serves as a reminder to all  
10 Americans of the status and importance of Americans of African descent; and

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

14 WHEREAS, due to the current Coronavirus/COVID-19 Global Pandemic, the Maryland-  
15 National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host the 2020 Juneteenth National Freedom  
16 Day Celebration virtually on June 19, 2020 entitled Juneteenth Takeover of PGParks on  
17 Facebook featuring Creative Suitland, Aqua Williams, Step Afrika, mini-workshops, lectures,  
18 art exhibitions, and musical performances.

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George’s County Council hereby supports  
23 the 2020 Juneteenth Celebration held virtually in Prince George’s County and applauds all  
24 participants and encourages the participation of employees, families and communities in the  
25 virtual observance held on Friday, June 19, 2020.

Adopted this 16th day of June, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Todd M. Turner  
Council Chair

ATTEST:

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Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council