



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 16-4189, **Version:** 2

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

OBSERVING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States for more than 2.5 years after President Lincoln's emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19th, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day" as the anniversary of their emancipation; and;

WHEREAS, African-Americans from the Southwest continued the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, for more than 151 years, Juneteenth Independence Day Celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Board along with the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation; supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of Cook County to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our great Country; and hereby recognize and observe the day of June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs in Cook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners directs the Secretary of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to President Barack Obama, Joseph R. Biden, Vice President; Sen. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader; Sen. Harry Reid, Democratic Leader; Rep. Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House; Rep. Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader; and Rep. Nancy Pelosi Minority Leader, urging them to support Juneteenth National Day of Observance.

IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceeding of this Honorable Body to commemorate this auspicious occasion.