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## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON AND COMMEMORATING THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES

- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, marking the arrival of Union soldiers in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to announce the emancipation of enslaved African Americans; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863, enslaved African Americans in Texas and other rebellious states were not freed from bondage until several years later; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the long journey towards freedom and equality endured by African Americans, highlighting their resilience, courage, and perseverance amidst systemic oppression; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth represents a pivotal milestone in the ongoing struggle for civil rights and racial equality, underscoring the progress made and the challenges that persist in addressing systemic racism and inequity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth celebrates the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and contributions of African Americans, recognizing their enduring legacy of creativity, innovation, and resilience; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Observing Juneteenth provides an opportunity for reflection, education, and dialogue on the legacy of slavery, the significance of emancipation, and the continuing fight for justice, equality, and human rights for all individuals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recognizing Juneteenth as a citywide holiday symbolizes Boston's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and social justice, and its support for advancing racial equity and dismantling systemic racism, ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council officially recognizes the importance of Juneteenth and its significance in American history, and hereby declares June 19th as a citywide holiday in Boston.

Filed on: June 12, 2024