**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNETEENTH**

**AN OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing the practice and institution of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865 word of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached those enslaved living in Texas, delivered by Union General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19th has since become known as Freedom Day and has also become known as the official day of recognition for Juneteenth; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah fully recognizes that the intrinsic value of celebrating Juneteenth Day lies in the acknowledgement that there remains work to be done in addressing inclusion, equal rights, and equal access to opportunity to truly overcome the impact of historical racial injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah remains committed to pursuing the ideals of justice, equality, and peace among all of our residents and we encourage our neighbors in surrounding communities to do the same; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Van R. Johnson II proclaimed June 19, 2021 Juneteenth Day; and

**WHEREAS**, The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah wish to permanently designate Juneteenth Day as an official City holiday and paid holiday for City employees,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is hereby RESOLVED that June 19th shall henceforth be an official City holiday known as Juneteenth Day and shall be a paid holiday for City employees.

Adopted and approved by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, this 28th day of October, 2021.

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF

THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

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Van R. Johnson II, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mark Massey

Clerk of Council