

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 24-73

Proclaiming June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth in Yolo County

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day that enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas were informed of their emancipation by the Union Army, over two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, slavery was formally abolished in the United States by the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, formerly enslaved African Americans in Texas celebrated the first “Jubilee Day”, the holiday we now know as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, June 19th, 2024, will mark the 159th Anniversary of that historic day and 3 years since President Biden signed a bill to officially designate Juneteenth as a federal holiday and a National Day of Observance; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated in Yolo County for over 20 years, and was first celebrated by Yolo County Library and the Culture C.O.-O.P. in 2011; and, with the help of the Friends of the Davis Public Library, the City of Davis, and UC Davis, has been celebrated annually (except in 2020) since 2017; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors worked with county staff to create the Yolo County Inclusion and Diversity Taskforce, a multi-agency taskforce designed to make concrete changes to address systemic racism within the county’s many agencies and take a more equitable approach to providing services; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of the County’s Umoja Committee, “Make Your Voice Heard” has been chosen as the theme for Juneteenth 2024, emphasizing the importance of speaking out against racism and for equality, as well as elevating the voices and expressions of black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has committed to hire a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the County of Yolo to advance the goals of creating a more inclusive and equitable county government; and

WHEREAS, while Juneteenth celebrates the liberation of African Americans, no true celebration of Juneteenth can be achieved without addressing modern-day inequities; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors will continue to work alongside the Inclusion and Diversity Taskforce to address systemic inequalities in the policies of Yolo County; and with the efforts of the County’s Umoja, a cultural competency affinity group of Black/African American leaders, the County is providing various support programs focused on helping Black communities navigate past systemic barriers that infringe upon their freedoms and opportunities that would improve their quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth in Yolo County and reaffirms the County of Yolo’s commitment to racial justice.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of June, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Vixie Sandy, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs.

Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors