

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-3293

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, DECLARING JUNE 19th AS “JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY”; CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO CREATE A STATE HOLIDAY RECOGNIZING THE SAME; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, even though the Civil War ended in April of 1865, the practice of chattel slavery persisted for several more months in isolated regions of the former Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the United States Army, accompanied by two thousand soldiers of the 13th Army Corps, announced to the people of Galveston, Texas, that all slaves in Texas were free, pursuant to General Order, No. 3 (The Emancipation Proclamation), issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary of this joyous and momentous event has been celebrated under many names--Juneteenth, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Second Independence Day, and Emancipation Day, to name just a few--all which commemorated the same event and the ending of chattel slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 17th, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed legislation creating the federal holiday of “Juneteenth National Independence Day,” to be celebrated annually on June 19th; and

WHEREAS, by recent count, twenty-five U.S. states and the District of Columbia have made the Juneteenth National Independence Day an official public holiday and a paid holiday for state employees; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside has previously recognized and celebrated this new and important holiday, most notably through Resolution 2021-2798, which declared June 19th, 2021, as Juneteenth Day in the Town of Surfside; and

WHEREAS, as Resolution 2021-1798 states, "Juneteenth provides all Americans with an important opportunity to thoughtfully reflect upon the tumultuous past and promising dream imagined in the Declaration of Independence's ideal of a 'more perfect union'"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has yet to recognize Juneteenth as an official public holiday and has yet to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for state employees; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Commission of the Town of Surfside recognize and respect the significance of this day of hope and promise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above-stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Declaration. The Mayor and Town Commission hereby declare June 19th, in 2023 and in every year henceforth, as "Juneteenth National Independence Day," in the Town of Surfside.

Section 3. Urging Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature. The Mayor and Town Commission hereby urge the Governor and the Legislature of the

State of Florida to make Juneteenth National Independence Day an official public holiday in the State of Florida and a paid holiday for employees of the State.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of June, 2024.

Motion By: Commissioner Vildostegui

Second By: Vice Mayor Paul

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Ruben Coto	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>

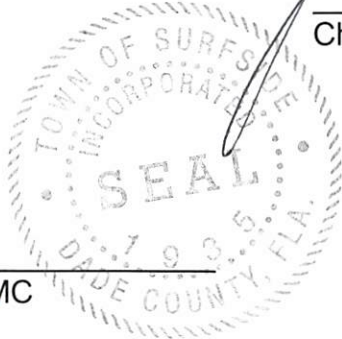


Charles W. Burkett, Mayor


ATTEST:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:



Mark Blumstein
Interim Town Attorney