

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**



WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring slaves in Confederate territories free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, June 19th is declared as Juneteenth, a moniker derived from combining the words June and Nineteenth, a nationally recognized day which celebrates the rich culture, legacy and heritage of Black and African American people; and

WHEREAS, 2023 marks the 158th year of Juneteenth, with Juneteenth being the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States, dating back to June 19, 1865 when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended, freeing the enslaved, calling for "absolute equality"; and

WHEREAS, Black history is American history and is important to celebrate as we create safe spaces, representation, inclusion and empowerment for the Black community in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, this holiday is especially important for Humboldt County, as this community makes up 1.5% of the population but have and continue to experience various forms of discrimination and inequity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth also represents an opportunity for critical reflection, social action and examination of our progress toward racial equity and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors pledge to continue our efforts to lift up the importance and history of Juneteenth and work tirelessly to root out institutional racism wherever it exists and advance equality and inclusion for all members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Black Humboldt will be hosting Juneteenth 2023 "Celebrating Freedom" on Saturday, June 17th 12PM to 10PM at Eureka's Halvorsen Park. All events are open to the Humboldt community unless specified as exclusive. Come celebrate with your Black community and enjoy food, arts, culture, live music, vendors and a youth zone. This year's theme will be honoring Black fathers and the many forms they show up in, within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors again recognizes this important federal holiday, the significant contributions and lineage of those that helped build this country, and to call upon our community to affirm our commitment to continue the work of equity, justice, and progress.

DATED: June 13, 2023

Steve Madrone, Chair