

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE June 16, 2019NUMBER 264-2020**TITLE:****A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY.
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Donna K. Williams)**

WHEREAS, on June 19th, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, is known in many places as "Juneteenth Independence Day"; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans from the Southwest, for nearly 150 years, have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, 43 States, the District of Columbia, and other countries, have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and their descendants remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Orange Township hereby celebrates Juneteenth Independence Day. The City Council of the City of Orange Township encourages the citizens of the City of Orange Township to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Adopted:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President

*Vaughn Parchment on behalf of
the City Attorney*

CITY ATTORNEY