

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING JUNE 19, 2021 AS
"JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY," IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks and celebrates June 19, 1865, when, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved African Americans in Texas were told by Union troops that the American Civil War had ended and that the enslaved people were now free; and

WHEREAS, celebrations of Juneteenth date back to 1866, first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas, and then spreading across the South and becoming more popular in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, Juneteenth celebrations were eclipsed by the struggle for postwar civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African American freedom and arts; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth today acknowledges African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, and is celebrated in many major cities in the United State and is recognized as a state holiday in 47 of the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach support the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby declare June 19, 2021 as "Juneteenth Independence Day," in the City of Miami Beach.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber
Mayor

Rafael E. Granado
City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner David Richardson)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

Date

5-4-21