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**RESOLUTION 21-205**

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**Resolution Commemorating Juneteenth Of Each Year As An Annual Celebration Of Black Emancipation**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing enslaved people in the South and paving the way for the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern and Southwestern enslavers ignored that order for over two and a half years after it was first decreed, until on the 19th day of June, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the President's order, freeing the people who had been held in bondage; and

**WHEREAS**, Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, medical apartheid, racial terror, segregation, unequal schools, and mass incarceration, the plunder of Black bodies and Black wealth has continued past slavery and persists to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and education of African Americans. This campaign of violence, exploitation, and exclusion perpetrated against Americans of African descent - by both public and private interests, by institutions and individuals in the U.S. - is in direct contravention of the U.S. Constitution and international law; and

**WHEREAS**, True liberation from these systems of oppression must include recognizing the full extent of their harms to generations of Black Americans and the elimination of all barriers to full racial equality in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19<sup>th</sup> has a special meaning to Americans of African descent, and is called "Juneteenth," combining the words of "June" and "nineteenth," and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton recognizes Juneteenth as a celebration of the emancipation of those formerly held in bondage, their extraordinary efforts to never lose hope for full freedom and equality in the face of ongoing persecution, and their selfless pursuit of community wellbeing; in the spirit of the gospel song that became an anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, "We Shall Overcome;" and

**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton recognizes the resilience, sacrifice, activism, and organizing efforts, Americans of African descent have historically exhibited in pursuit of community and real freedom, ensuring the United States meets its foundational promises of equality and justice, and

**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton recognizes Juneteenth honors and celebrates the perseverance that Black Americans have demonstrated in overcoming systemic oppression and racism to make invaluable contributions to all aspects of U.S. society, including science, literature, medicine, technology, journalism, politics, academia, engineering, the arts, and the law; and

**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton recognizes that many current and former residents who have had profound impacts on the city are the direct descendants of enslaved people who were brought to Princeton by enslavers, some of whom were affiliated with Princeton University, including individuals who served in leadership positions at the University, in state government, and in the federal government; and

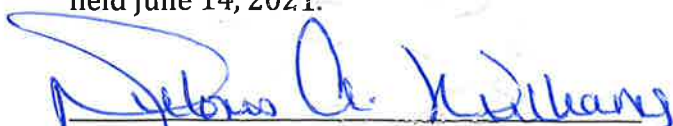
**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton recognizes that all residents must actively commit to eliminating the overt and implicit vestiges of slavery and Jim Crow that continue to deny Americans of African descent full equality under the law and must strive to promote diversity, racial equity, and inclusion in their daily activities. To this end, the municipality of Princeton recognizes the significance of Juneteenth for Americans of African descent and Princeton residents who advance justice, freedom, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, The municipality of Princeton supports the nationwide celebration of Juneteenth and wishes to officially honor and annually celebrate the same.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 14th day of June, 2021 the Mayor and Council of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, adopts and proclaims this Resolution to underscore the freedom and dignity of every human being and recognizes Juneteenth, the 19th day of June, as an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of Black liberation and all those who commit themselves to that goal.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Fraga		X	X		X			
Ms. Niedergang		X			X			
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X			X			
Ms. Sacks		X			X			
Mr. Williamson		X		X	X			
Mayor Freda		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held June 14, 2021.



Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk