

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-30**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY AND  
SETTING FORTH THE REVISED CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation legally ended slavery in the Confederate states, but the low presence of Union troops and refusal of white slaveowners to comply with the proclamation prolonged slavery in Texas and in other states; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, a Union general and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the emancipation of slaves and inform the last of those enslaved within the borders of the United States that they were free; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 has been celebrated in smaller communities across the nation as Juneteenth and also is known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, while over 155 years have passed since chattel slavery was officially ended in the United States, slavery has left a catastrophic and unrelenting legacy of trauma for generations of Black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, our country and our city continue to struggle with dismantling discriminatory systems and structural racism; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing Juneteenth as an official City holiday brings awareness and consciousness to a crucial day in history and is a distinct step toward achieving racial equity, working toward an antiracist future, and ending the historical and continued harms of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2021, Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed House Bill 1016 establishing Juneteenth as a legal holiday for state employees starting in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021, United States President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into Law immediately establishing Juneteenth as a legal holiday for federal employees; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to recognize Juneteenth as an official City holiday, the City Council desires to amend any previous resolutions setting forth the City holiday schedule; and

**WHEREAS;** the budget impact of this resolution shall be reflected in the 2021 Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM THAT:**

**Section 1.** The City of Bellingham will honor every nineteenth day of June as Juneteenth.

**Section 2.** Beginning in 2022, employees of the City of Bellingham shall be entitled to the following paid holidays during each calendar year unless otherwise provided in a valid applicable collective bargaining contract:

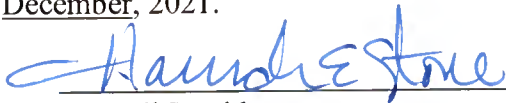
- The first day of January (New Year's Day),
- The third Monday of January (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday),
- The third Monday of February (President's Day),
- The nineteenth day of June (Juneteenth),
- The last Monday of May (Memorial Day),
- The fourth day of July (Independence Day),
- The first Monday in September (Labor Day),
- The eleventh day of November (Veterans Day),
- The fourth Thursday of November (Thanksgiving Day),
- The day immediately following Thanksgiving Day,
- The twenty-fifth day of December (Christmas Day),
- One day either immediately before or immediately after the Christmas holiday, as designated by the City.

**Section 3.** If a holiday falls on a weekend, the City shall follow its established policies and procedures for designating the normal workday closest to the holiday as the observed holiday.

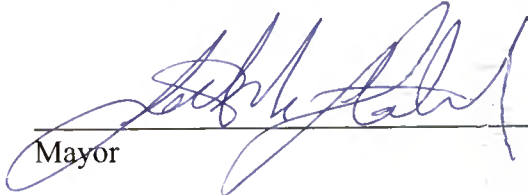
**Section 4.** This resolution does not affect floating holidays or other paid days off provided by the City.

**Section 5.** The holiday schedule set forth in Section 2 of this resolution hereby supersedes any previous versions of the City holiday schedule set forth in any resolutions, amendments, or other enactments setting forth a holiday schedule or changes to such schedule.


**PASSED** by the Council this 6th day of December, 2021.

  
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Council President

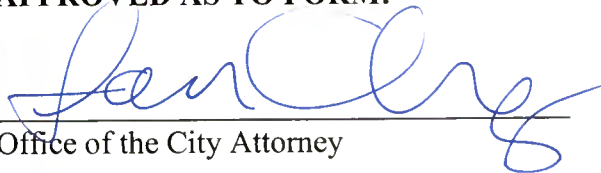
**APPROVED** by me this 10 day of December, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney