

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

R E S O L U T I O N #23-221

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2023, AS
"JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865,
THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED
THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19th; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 declaring that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of the State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"; and

WHEREAS, the first official Juneteenth celebration took place in the State of Texas and have continued across the United States for more than 150 years and is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery; 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 the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion or race; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell does hereby recognize June 19, 2023 as "Juneteenth Independence Day" and recognizes the significance of Juneteenth and the observance of the end of slavery as part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Date Adopted: June 12, 2023

CERTIFICATION

I, Katherine Fenton-Newman, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting held on the 12th day of June, 2023, in the Municipal Building Auditorium, Hopewell Township, New Jersey and via Zoom Video Communications.



Katherine Fenton-Newman, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk