



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

TITLE:

Consider directing the City Manager to add Juneteenth to the City Holiday Schedule, and to amend the Employee Handbook, accordingly, as requested by Council Member Cheryl Lee.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:

Submitted by: Tanya Cantrell, Human Resources Director

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, S.475, into law on June 17, 2021, creating a federal holiday to commemorate Juneteenth. Juneteenth is observed on June 19th each year, commemorating the emancipation of the enslaved African Americans in 1865.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation outlawing slavery in the original Confederate states and freeing all enslaved people. On June 19, 1865, Union Army Major General Gordon Granger, under General Order Number 3, enforced the freedom of enslaved people in Texas, the last hold-out state in the Confederacy.

The Employee Handbook will be reviewed and updated in September upon approval of this request and the Juneteenth Holiday will be added to the City's current schedule of holidays at that time. Updated Employee Handbooks will be provided to Council.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

- Direct the City Manager to add Juneteenth as a holiday to the City's current schedule of holidays in the Employee Handbook.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A