

**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 21C-24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING MICC 2.08.020(A) TO ADD JUNETEENTH AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY
OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1016; PROVIDING
FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest recognized celebration observing the freedom of African Americans from slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, but it had minimal immediate effect on the majority of enslaved people who remained in captivity by slave owners; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, federal Union troops arrived in Confederate-controlled Texas to take possession of the state and to enforce the emancipation of enslaved people throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, two years, five months, and eighteen days after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the last of those enslaved within the borders of the United States were freed; and

WHEREAS, the word “Juneteenth” became the name for the joyous celebration of freedom from slavery as a result of the words “June Nineteenth” combined together in speech; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been established as a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has also been established as a state legal holiday beginning in 2022; and

WHEREAS, employees of the state and its political subdivisions are entitled to a paid holiday on state legal holidays; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Mercer Island City Code to establish Juneteenth as a legal holiday of the City; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: **Amended MICC 2.08.020(A).** Subsection (A) to MICC 2.08.020 is hereby amended as follows:

2.08.020 Hours of business and holidays.

A. Unless otherwise specified by the city manager, City Hall shall be open for the transaction of business Monday through Friday during the hours of 8:30 am to 5 pm with the exception of the following legal holidays:

1. New Years’ Day;

- 2. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday;
- 3. Presidents' Day;
- 4. Memorial Day;
- 5. Juneteenth (beginning in 2022);
- 6. ~~5.~~ Independence Day;
- 7. ~~6.~~ Labor Day;
- 8. ~~7.~~ Veterans' Day;
- 9. ~~8.~~ Thanksgiving Day;
- 10. ~~9.~~ Day after Thanksgiving Day;
- 11. ~~10.~~ Christmas Day;
- 12. ~~11.~~ One additional holiday as designated by the city manager each year.

Section 2: Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any municipal code section amended hereby should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or the amended code section.

Section 3: Publication and Effective Date. A summary of this Ordinance consisting of its title shall be published in the official newspaper of the City. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five days after the date of publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, 2021.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Benson Wong, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

ATTEST:

Bio Park, City Attorney

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk

Date of Publication: _____