



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5885
June 1, 2021
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5885: Juneteenth Proclamation No. 272	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Mayor Wong proclaims June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in Mercer Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Tambi Cork, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 272
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

On June 9, 2020, Mercer Island City Council renewed its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Proclamation No. 252) as a community priority and committed to meaningful progress in combatting racism. Originally proclaimed by Proclamation No. 201 on November 21, 2016, the Council noted that “each of us can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms which will make Mercer Island a stronger and healthier community.”

To that end, the Mercer Island City Council joins communities around the nation in commemorating June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island. Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Liberation Day, commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free in 1865 in Galveston, Texas, when Union soldiers brought them the news over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but Texas continued to allow enslavement until General Gordon Granger came to Galveston, Texas and issued General Order #3. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining slaves.

Juneteenth has special significance for Black and African Americans in Mercer Island, and the acknowledgement of the historical and continued harms of slavery and the rejoicing of the end of this atrocity

should be acknowledged and celebrated by all Island residents. Juneteenth is a day to recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to our state and country and is a chance to reflect on the progress that must continue to ensure that all have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in our society.

NEW STATE HOLIDAY

On May 13, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee signed House Bill 1016 declaring June 19 a legal paid State Holiday effective in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Wong proclaims June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in Mercer Island.