



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6487
June 4, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6487: Juneteenth, Proclamation No. 335	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 335 proclaiming June 19, 2024 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Sr. Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 335
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.

- Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.
- Congress passed The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in June 2021, and President Biden made Juneteenth a National Holiday on June 17, 2021.
- The City of Mercer Island has partnered with the Mercer Island High School Black Student Union to hold a Juneteenth Celebration at Mercedale Park from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island City Council joins communities around the nation in commemorating June 19, 2024 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 Gordan Granger came to Galveston, Texas and issued General Order #3. On

June 19, 1865, Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation, granting freedom to an approximately 250,000 remaining enslaved people.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Juneteenth is a day to recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to our state, country, and community, a chance to reflect on the complex and painful history of our nation, and a reminder that we each hold a role in creating a more equitable and just society.

Black Americans have celebrated Juneteenth in a variety of ways. Early on, celebrations often involved helping newly freed African Americans learn about their voting rights and due privileges at citizens of the United States. Now, Juneteenth celebrations include parades, picnics, musical performances, and church services.

Mercer Island will hold a Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 2024, from 12:00-4:00 PM at Mercerdale Park. Presented by the Mercer Island High School Black Student Union and sponsored by the City of Mercer Island, all are welcome to enjoy food trucks, live music, family activities, and fun in honor of this important national holiday.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 335 proclaiming June 19, 2024 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.