



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

**AB 6280  
June 6, 2023  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6280: Juneteenth Proclamation No. 311	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve Proclamation No. 311 proclaiming June 19th as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Salim Nice, Mayor Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Sr. Management Analyst
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 311
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ 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 Mercer Island community can celebrate Juneteenth at Mercedale Park from 12:00-4:00 PM for live music, food, and family games.

**BACKGROUND**

The Mercer Island City Council joins communities around the nation in commemorating June 19, 2023 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.

## **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.

Mercer Island will hold a Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 2023 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 cultural holiday.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Proclamation No. 311 proclaiming June 19th as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.