



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6953
June 16, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6953: Juneteenth, Proclamation No. 391	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 391 proclaiming June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Mayor Dave Rosenbaum Andrea Larson, City Clerk
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 391
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.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island City Council joins communities around the nation in commemorating June 19, 2026 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 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 391 proclaiming June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth on Mercer Island.