



# Town of Upper Marlboro

Town Hall, 14211 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Tel: (301) 627-6905  
Fax: (301) 627-2080

[info@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:info@uppermarlboromd.gov)  
[www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 280 • Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-0280

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Board of Town Commissioners  
**From:** John Hoatson, Town Clerk  
**Date:** Friday, July 22, 2022  
**Re:** Proposed Changes To Juneteenth Proclamation from Commissioner Duckett

Commissioners:

As it relates to the Juneteenth Proclamation it does not verbalize the true essence of this historical act. I recommend the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph be removed from this brief proclamation to speak directly into the purpose thereof with the following without the very dark and divisive commentary.

*WHEREAS, initially a regional celebration popular in Texas and neighboring states which brought remaining family members together who had resettled after June 19th, 1865, Juneteenth grew to become a national event during which African American communities gathered to share in the spirit of the day, featuring outdoor activities, food, prayer services; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations declined in the early 20th century, the result of educational focus which emphasized the Emancipation Proclamation, shifts in the workforce due to the Great Depression, and popularity of the July 4th holiday; and*

*WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement spurred a resurgence of Juneteenth, leading to the state of Texas declaring it an official state holiday in 1980, and continued to grow as an important national and local celebration of African American freedom, culture, and achievement.*

- During the July Regular Town Meeting, a motion will need to be made to accept these proposed changes as presented in this memo.