



Tom Day
Human Resources Manager
Goodhue County

Tom.Day@co.goodhue.mn.us
509 W. Fifth St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385.3066

TO: Goodhue County Commissioners
FROM: Human Resources
DATE: June 6, 2023
RE: **Juneteenth Holiday**

In 2021, President Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth, which falls on June 19, a federal holiday. In Minnesota, the holiday was enacted into law on February 4 of this year and was to take effect in 2024. However, language was added to the state and local government omnibus bill at the end of this legislative session, moving the enactment date up to 2023. Governor Walz is expected to sign the bill into law, and the Mn Office of Management and Budget is already listing the holiday for the current year.

In order to show our support for this important holiday, and to follow state law, we recommend adding Juneteenth as a county holiday, increasing the amount of annual holiday pay for certain classified employees required to work on holidays, giving authority to amend the County's Collaborative Bargaining Agreements with MOA's, and considering adoption of the below resolution.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, June 19th is nationally recognized as Juneteenth - the oldest known American celebration of the ending of slavery; and,

WHEREAS, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19th to announce the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were now free; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Day celebrations have since been held to commemorate African American freedom from slavery. Honoring this day 160 years later, helps us learn our history and better understand the experiences of African Americans that shaped this nation; and,

Whereas it is critical to the healing of divisions in this country that all Americans officially recognize the injustice of slavery and celebrate its end as part of our efforts to "create a better union", and

Whereas, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday signing it into state law and stating that "Juneteenth is an important opportunity for communities across the state and nation to celebrate freedom, recognize the history and contributions of Black Americans, and recommit to building a more just and equitable society for everyone."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Goodhue County Board recognizes and honors June 19th as National Juneteenth and remain committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments throughout the county.