

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-31**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING JUNETEENTH (JUNE 19) AS AN  
OBSERVED PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to declare Juneteenth (June 19) and the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day) as observed public holidays in the City of Forest Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the celebrated Emancipation Proclamation informing Confederate States that he would declare enslaved people "forever free", paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Union troops marched through Galveston reading to the people of Galveston that all slaves were free, and the formerly enslaved citizens in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations;

**WHEREAS**, June 19<sup>th</sup> (Juneteenth) is a day to celebrate the end of slavery and the advancement of equality and justice in the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures;

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Legislature voted unanimously to recognize Juneteenth as a legal state holiday beginning in 2022 and the federal government adopted it in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council approves recognizing Juneteenth as an observed public holiday beginning in 2022, observed on June 20, 2022, and every year thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, this action honors City Council's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and is deemed to be in the best interest of the city, its administration, and its employees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City Council hereby approves declaring Juneteenth (June 19) as an observed public holiday beginning in 2022 in the City of Forest Grove.

**Section 2.** That Section 9.3 of the Employee Handbook of the City of Forest Grove should be amended to add Juneteenth as an observed public holiday in the City of Forest Grove.

**Section 3.** This resolution is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

  
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Anna D. Ruggles, City Recorder

**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

  
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Peter B. Truax, Mayor



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

## **STAFF MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** *City Council*

**FROM:** *Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager*  
*Brenda Camilli, Human Resources Director*

**SUBJECT TITLE:** *Observance of Juneteenth Holiday*

**DATE:** *June 13, 2022*

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The City Council held a Work Session on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the Employee Handbook (Handbook) and discuss any questions and concerns. Some changes were suggested by Council which are being incorporated into the Handbook. The Handbook is currently under review by City employees and subsequent to their comments will be placed on the agenda for adoption by City Council likely at the July regular meeting.

The Employee Handbook includes the list of observed City of Forest Grove holidays. During the Work Session, there was a consensus to amend the Handbook to include Juneteenth and Presidents' Day. There was also consensus that if the Handbook could not be brought back for approval at the first meeting in June to allow for the observance of Juneteenth this year, that staff would present a resolution approving Juneteenth at the first meeting in June.

Staff has prepared a resolution for Council consideration approving Juneteenth as an observed holiday. Presidents' Day was included in the draft Handbook and would become an observed holiday upon passage of the Handbook by Council which is expected far in advance of the third Monday in February next year.

### **CURRENT STATUS:**

Juneteenth is an annual commemoration of the events of June 19, 1865 when Union troops marched into Galveston, Texas to proclaim that all slaves were free based on President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of September 22, 1862. Juneteenth is a day to celebrate the end of slavery and the advancement of equality and justice in the United States of America.

Juneteenth was recently adopted as a legal holiday by the State of Oregon and by the federal government. Human Resources Staff surveyed peer cities in our area to see how the City of Forest Grove compares in terms of Juneteenth and paid holidays generally. With the exception of Police and Fire who accrue holiday pay monthly, the City currently observes 11 paid holidays. A survey of

10 local peer cities revealed that one city has the same amount as Forest Grove and 9 cities have more: namely, two had 12, four have 13, and one each had 14, 15, and 16 paid holidays. Nearly all of them observe Juneteenth and Presidents' Day, which are not currently observed by the City of Forest Grove.

If the Council adopts Juneteenth and Presidents' Day, the City will be more in line with its peer cities, federally recognized holidays, and the State of Oregon.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends City Council consider a resolution adopting Juneteenth as an official recognized and observed City holiday. Consideration of adopting President's Day will accompany the approval of the Employee Handbook at a subsequent meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution approving Juneteenth as an official recognized and observed City Holiday.