

1 [Urging San Francisco Employers and Businesses to Observe Juneteenth]

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3 **Resolution urging employers and businesses located in the City and County of San**  
4 **Francisco to recognize Juneteenth as an official federal holiday and to allow**  
5 **employees to observe June 19 with paid time off annually.**

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7 WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,”  
8 “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest African  
9 American holiday observance in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, Freedom Day,  
11 and Black Independence Day, commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in  
12 Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the  
13 United States to enslaved Black people and began to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation,  
14 which had been issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, more than two  
15 years prior; and

16 WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated annually on June 19th in various parts of  
17 the United States since 1865, becoming a time for reflection, rejoicing, and empowerment  
18 within African American communities, acknowledging their history, heritage, and resilience;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal  
21 holiday by President Joe Biden, following the passage of the Juneteenth National  
22 Independence Day Act by the United States Congress, acknowledging its profound  
23 significance in American history; and

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1           WHEREAS, Following President Joe Biden’s resolution declaring Juneteenth a federal  
2 holiday, Mayor London Breed signed an order declaring June 19 an official holiday in San  
3 Francisco and encouraged residents to participate in Juneteenth events; and

4           WHEREAS, Although Juneteenth became a national holiday in 2021, San Francisco  
5 has long held events and celebrations for Juneteenth annually since 1950 with a festival and  
6 parade along Fillmore Street and celebrations have since expanded to many neighborhoods;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Although the City and County of San Francisco annually observe  
9 Juneteenth, not all employers or businesses in San Francisco have adopted this federal  
10 holiday as an official day of recognition; now, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges all employers and businesses in the  
12 City and County of San Francisco to recognize Juneteenth as an official federal holiday and to  
13 allow employees to observe June 19; and, be it

14           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages all employers and  
15 businesses in the City and County of San Francisco, to either close on June 19th, pay  
16 workers overtime pay that they would typically get on a paid holiday, and/or allow the many  
17 workers in the City who want to attend Juneteenth events to honor and celebrate Juneteenth  
18 celebrations and commemorations that take place to take the day off or leave work with no  
19 employment consequence.

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