

1 [Celebrating Juneteenth in San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution celebrating Juneteenth as a day of reflection, empowerment, and**
4 **commemoration of Black freedom and excellence in the City and County of San**
5 **Francisco; and urging all San Franciscans to join in honoring this important day.**

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

11 WHEREAS, Juneteenth 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 19th 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, Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the long and ongoing struggle for
9 Black liberation, justice, and equality, and highlights the continued need to address systemic
10 racism and its impacts on Black communities in San Francisco and beyond, especially in
11 current times; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
13 celebrates Juneteenth as a vital day of remembrance and action, and urges all San
14 Franciscans to reflect on the enduring contributions of Black Americans to our City and nation;
15 and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages all employers,
17 businesses, and institutions in San Francisco to honor Juneteenth as a day of
18 commemoration by closing operations where possible, offering employees paid time off, or
19 providing overtime pay in recognition of the holiday, and supporting opportunities for workers
20 and students to participate in Juneteenth events without adverse consequence; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to
22 advancing equity, dismantling structural racism, and building a San Francisco where freedom,
23 justice, and opportunity become a reality for everyone.

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