

1 [Commendation.]

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3 **Resolution commending the San Francisco Juneteenth Organizing Committee for**  
4 **another successful Juneteenth Festival and Parade honoring the independence of**  
5 **African American slaves in Texas and the African American community in the City and**  
6 **County of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Dating as far back as 1865, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of  
9 the ending of slavery; and

10 WHEREAS, It was on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, that the Union soldiers, led by Major General  
11 Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that all  
12 slaves were now free; and,

13 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, had little  
14 impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of union troops to enforce the new executive  
15 order; and,

16 WHEREAS, However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the  
17 arrival of General Granger's Regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and  
18 overcome the resistance; and,

19 WHEREAS, With the issuance of General Order Number 3 by General Granger, the  
20 emancipation of slaves in Texas was reaffirmed; and,

21 WHEREAS, Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its  
22 festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures  
23 encountered in their new territory; and,

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1           WHEREAS, The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more  
2 participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each  
3 other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members; and,

4           WHEREAS, Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical  
5 Juneteenth activities you may witness today. Juneteenth is almost always focused on  
6 education and self-improvement. Thus often guest speakers are brought in and the elders are  
7 called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services were also a major part of these  
8 celebrations; and,

9           WHEREAS, Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth  
10 activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. However, The Civil Rights movement  
11 of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations.  
12 The resurgence of the fight for African American rights during this time and the Juneteenth  
13 celebration provided inspiration for the lives of African Americans and gave inspiration as well  
14 to the movements to improve their conditions; and,

15           WHEREAS, San Francisco has celebrated Juneteenth for many decades and not only  
16 has it served as a premise for the celebration of the emancipation of slaves, it has as well  
17 become a celebration of African Americans and the struggles which they faced through out  
18 their fight for equality; and,

19           WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Celebration has united the African American community  
20 and as well has provided an inclusive environment for all people to celebrate the diversity of  
21 San Francisco; and,

22           WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Celebration and Festival held on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>,  
23 2003, was a very successful event which celebrated the African American culture and their  
24 independence in 1865, and thus the efforts of the coordinators should be commended; now,  
25 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby commends the of  
2 the San Francisco Juneteenth Organizing Committee for another successful Juneteenth  
3 Festival and Parade, which honors the independence of African American slaves in Texas  
4 and the African American community in the City and County of San Francisco.

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