

June 1, 2021

Honorable Supervisors
 Alameda County Board of Supervisors
 County of Alameda Administration Building
 1221 Oak Street, #536
 Oakland, CA 94612

Juneteenth (June 19th), also known as Emancipation Day, is the day that African Americans in Texas learned of their independence which was two and one-half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Since then, formerly enslaved people in Texas celebrated their freedom on June 19 and these celebrations have evolved throughout the United States into an official commemorative holiday now known as Juneteenth imparting education, ceremonies, food, festivities, and knowledge of African American cultural traditions to all.

Juneteenth continues to serve as an extremely significant day and a time for reflection, education, and self-improvement for not only African Americans but for every person in America and Alameda County. Currently the County of Alameda has eleven (11) paid holidays, one being July 4th. This important day is known as “Independence Day”, the day in which the Continental Congress proclaimed that the thirteen American colonies were no longer dependent (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, and were now united, free, and independent states.

However, this was not true for Black Americans in 1776, and once again did not wholly become true for all Blacks in this country until June 19, 1866. Therefore, to have July 4th as a paid holiday in our county (which we would like to see continue), yet disregard the hardships, pain, hurt, misuse, and suffering of African Americans by continuously not acknowledging their true day of independence “Juneteenth” is offensive and hurtful.

Juneteenth is now celebrated in 47 states and in the District of Columbia as a special day of observance. In fact, in our neighboring county, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors resolved to make Juneteenth a paid county holiday in 2020. Becoming the first county in the state to make Juneteenth a paid county holiday with a unanimous vote. Alameda County is usually in the forefront on matters of this nature, however we should walk alongside Santa Clara County and be the trail blazers that we are.

We are requesting that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consider making June 19 (Juneteenth), a paid county holiday, just as July 4 (Independence Day), is currently a paid holiday. By making Juneteenth a paid holiday, it will not only acknowledge this important historical date for African Americans but can also provide time for reflection, education, and self-improvement for our employees, residents, and visitors. Our county can be united in celebrating Juneteenth, continue to be trail blazers, and set an example for other cities, counties, and businesses across the state.



Peter Finn
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer
Teamster Local Union 856



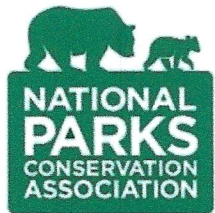
Rome Aloise
President
Teamsters Joint Council 7



Felix Martinez
President
Teamsters Local Union 70



Rome Aloise
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 853



Ron Sundergill
Senior Regional Director, Pacific Region
National Parks Conservation Association



Jason Rabinowitz
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 2010



Ronnie Forbes
Founder & Military Veteran
One Nation Dream Maker



Aaron Ortiz, MPA
CEO
La Familia Counseling Service



Donald Frazier
Executive Director
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency



David Harris
President & CEO
Urban Strategies Council

Kamarlo Spooner Sr.
Chair of the Community Advisory Board
Teamsters Union Local 70 Member



Anette Sanders
Community Liaison
Glad Tidings International