

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY

- WHEREAS,** *President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, declaring that all enslaved people in Confederate states be “henceforward” free; however, many enslavers in the South continued to ignore this order; and*
- WHEREAS,** *on June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger with thousands of Union soldiers, including U.S. Colored Troop arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, officially enforcing the emancipation of stolen Africans and some Indigenous people still held in human bondage in Texas; and*
- WHEREAS,** *President Lincoln acknowledged in 1865 that “without the military help of the Black freedmen, the war against the South could not have been won”; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Juneteenth is one of the oldest nationally celebrated commemorations of the ending of slavery in the United States, with the first official celebration taking place in Texas in 1866, and was established as a federal holiday in 2021, and recognized by the State of Utah in 2022; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Juneteenth provides an opportunity for Salt Lake City to celebrate the heritage, resilience, and contributions of Black Americans, and to honor their central role in the ongoing struggle for justice, equality, and freedom, while also committing to do our part to help build a more equitable community; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Juneteenth also acknowledges America’s commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, along with the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865; and*
- WHEREAS,** *even after the formal abolition of slavery, other systems of racial oppression—including sharecropping, Jim Crow laws, redlining, and mass incarceration—have continued to unjustly harm Black communities and perpetuate systemic inequities in health, safety, and education; and*
- WHEREAS,** *honest acknowledgment of this history is essential to building a future rooted in the core American values of freedom, diversity, equity, liberty, and justice for all; and*
- WHEREAS,** *both the federal government and the State of Utah now recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday.*

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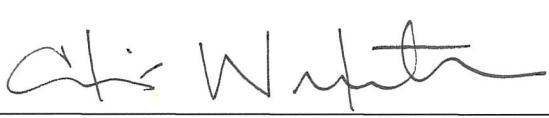
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City recognize Juneteenth Freedom Day in Salt Lake City in celebration of the cultural, economic, and humanitarian role of emancipation and the work toward that liberation in our past, present, and future.

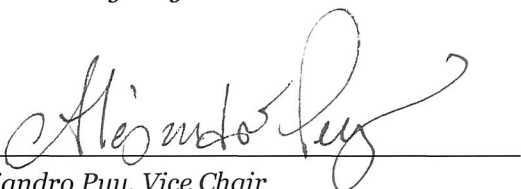
Adopted this 10th day of June 2025.



Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor



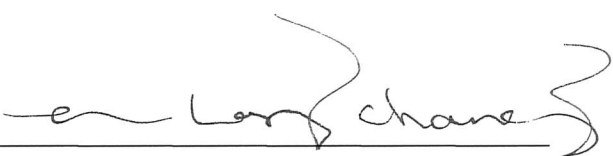
Chris Wharton, Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three



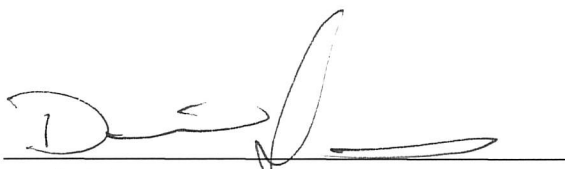
Alejandro Puy, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two



Victoria Petro
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One



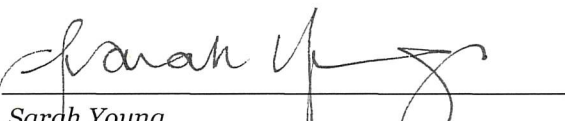
Eva Lopez Chavez
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four



Darin Mano
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Five



Dan Dugan
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Six



Sarah Young
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven

