



## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair  
Katie Kenlan, Vice Chair  
David Delaney  
Franklin Gomez Flores  
Amanda Robertson

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

## Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

### Recognizing Juneteenth as an Official Holiday and Honoring its Historical Significance

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19th, commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of all enslaved African Americans, more than two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a powerful reminder of the resilience, perseverance, and enduring contributions of African Americans throughout history and serves as a moment for reflection, education, and celebration of freedom and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 150 years, Juneteenth has been recognized and celebrated by African American communities across the United States, with events that highlight culture, history, and progress while continuing the call for justice and equity; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County values diversity, inclusion, and the recognition of all histories that have shaped our nation and our local community, and affirms its commitment to understanding and addressing the lasting impacts of slavery and systemic racism; and

**WHEREAS**, in alignment with federal and state observances, Chatham County formally recognizes Juneteenth as a paid county holiday beginning in 2025, providing all employees and residents an opportunity to observe, reflect, and engage with the significance of the day; and

**WHEREAS**, the County encourages community engagement, education, and the celebration of African American heritage through local events, partnerships, and programs that honor the spirit of Juneteenth.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth in Chatham County and encourages all residents to reflect on the significance of the day, participate in educational and cultural activities, and join in celebrating freedom and justice for all.

Adopted, this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

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Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board

*Integrity — Respect — Collaboration — Community — Equity — Service — Accountability*