

A Resolution by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Recognizing June 19th as Freedom Day or 'Juneteenth'

Whereas the January 3rd 1863 proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln declared emancipated all people enslaved in territories controlled by the rebellion against the United States; and

Whereas people held as slaves in southern Texas were not told about the Emancipation Proclamation until Major General George Granger landed U.S. Army troops at Galveston on June 19th, 1865; and

Whereas the African-Americans freed from bondage and their descendants celebrated Freedom Day or Emancipation Day thereafter, and the Civil Rights movement revived and spread the observance; and

Whereas the public library and Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity have organized entertainment and educational speakers for June 22nd, 10:45 to 6pm at the Agricultural and Conference Center, in celebration of Juneteenth; and

Whereas the people of Chatham County are committed to social justice and equal opportunity for all citizens;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the county hereafter recognizes June 19th as Freedom Day, 'Juneteenth,' a date for reflection on the historical and ongoing struggle for equality and civil rights.