



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2020-XXXX

Choose an item.

6/23/2020

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners - District 5

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

An ordinance to amend the Code of DeKalb County, as revised 1988, Chapter 20, principally to recognize June 19th, Juneteenth, as a paid County holiday.

Information Contact: Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5 Commissioner

Phone Number: 404-687-3588

PURPOSE:

To amend Chapter 20 to recognize Juneteenth as a paid County holiday.

NEED/IMPACT:

To acknowledge the history surrounding the end of the institution of slavery in the United States.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

To adopt the attached ordinance to amend Chapter 20, Sec. 20-164, and recognize Juneteenth as a paid County holiday.

AN ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA,
AS REVISED 1988, CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE VIII, TO RECOGNIZE JUNETEENTH
AS A PAID COUNTY HOLIDAY.**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation became effective on January 1, 1863 and declared the release of enslaved people in the Confederate States; and

WHEREAS, the American Civil War ended on April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, United States soldiers lead by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end of the war and the institution of enslaving African-Americans on June 19, 1865, more than two years after the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the date, June 19th has been recognized as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and coined “JUNETEENTH”; and

WHEREAS, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution outlawed chattel slavery and was finally ratified on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, racism, discrimination, and violence against African-Americans have persisted in the United States and recent murders of African-Americans have been captured on film; and

WHEREAS, recent events have led to broad based opposition to racism, discrimination, and senseless acts of violence such that the Governing Authority finds it is important to now honestly confront our sordid past and combat racism with acknowledgement of the often neglected, but important history of these issues; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that Chapter 20, Article VIII of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, as Revised 1988, be amended as follows:

PART I: ENACTMENT

By amending Section 20-164(a) of the Code of DeKalb County, as revised 1988, to read as follows:

* * *

Sec. 20-164. – Holidays.

- (a) The County will observe eleven (11) paid holidays per year. These are:
 - January 1, New Year’s Day.
 - Third Monday in January, Martin Luther King’s Birthday.
 - Third Monday in February, George Washington’s Birthday.
 - Last Monday in May, Memorial Day.
 - June 19, Juneteenth.
 - July 4, Independence Day.
 - First Monday in September, Labor Day.
 - November 11, Veteran’s Day.
 - Fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day.
 - Friday immediately following Thanksgiving Day.
 - December 25, Christmas Day.

* * *

PART II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

PART III. SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole, nor any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
 Presiding Officer
 Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia
APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

BENITA RANSOM
HR & Merit System Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney