



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Commemorating Juneteenth in Wake County**

WHEREAS, the month of June is the time our nation recognizes Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, this date marks a pivotal moment in history, occurring months after the Civil War ended and more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared enslaved people free; Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, bringing the long-awaited news that enslaved people were finally free; and

WHEREAS, June 19th also marks the day when African Americans in the southern states exercised their independence from those who benefitted from their labor in the founding of this nation; and

WHEREAS, the journey of African Americans is one marked by both great achievement and immense hardship; and

WHEREAS, our nation continues to witness the injustices faced by African Americans, which have existed for far too long; and

WHEREAS, the pain and anguish displayed on the national stage are the results of generations of systemic racism that continue to impact our employees and our community. Racism is a deeply rooted structural problem, and meaningful progress will require individuals to confront this reality, reflect on their role in society, and understand the experiences of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, 2024 data from USAFacts indicates that African Americans comprise 19.1% of our county's population, which is higher than the national percentage of 12.6%. The African American population continues to contribute to the cultural tapestry that defines our community; and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to identifying actionable measures to improve policies, procedures, and access to opportunities to ensure that employees and residents of Wake County are not subject to inequities, and to address issues of racism and inequality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners recognizes, adopts, and proclaims **June 19th as Juneteenth in Wake County**. We encourage all residents to use this day to celebrate the African American journey and reflect on how all residents can help advance diversity, equity, and inclusion for all Wake County residents.

ADOPTED this the 15th day of June 2026.

Donald Mial, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners