



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

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

WHEREAS, this date marks the time period where months after the Civil War ended and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing enslaved people — Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free 250,000 people still held in bondage; and

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

WHEREAS, the journey of African Americans represents both great achievements and great hardship; and

WHEREAS, our nation is currently witnessing the injustice of the African American journey that has existed for far too long; and

WHEREAS, the pain and anguish displayed on the national stage has developed from generations of systemic racism that impacts our employees and community. Racism is a deeply rooted structural problem. Improvement will require individuals to look into their hearts and recognize the reality of the African American journey; and

WHEREAS, data from 2022 states African Americans comprise 18.9% of our County population, adding to our rich cultural tapestry; and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to identifying actionable items to improve policies, procedures, and access to opportunities, and to ensure that employees and residents do not experience inequities in Wake County Government. The Board has demonstrated this through allocating more resources to affordable housing, health and human services, economic development, pre-k programs, and by supporting the County Manager's diversity and inclusivity initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Wake County Government continues to expand its cultural awareness through the WakeUP Wake County program that works to ensure healthy and sustainable communities for all residents in the region by educating both citizens and policymakers on growth planning issues related to social equity, environmental health, and economic viability.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners recognizes, adopts and proclaims June 19 as Juneteenth in Wake County. We ask all residents to take this day to celebrate the African American journey and carefully contemplate how you, as an individual, will help advance diversity, equity, and inclusion for all Wake County residents.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of June 2024.

Shinica Thomas, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners