



## **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**, data from [Insert Source] states that African Americans comprise [Insert Percentage] % of our county's population, contributing to the rich 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 2nd day of June 2025.

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Susan P. Evans, Chair  
Wake County Board of Commissioners