



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

**WHEREAS**, the month of June is the time that many in our nation recognize Juneteenth as the holiday that celebrates Emancipation Day, the day in history when the last state ratified the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, this date marks the time period where African Americans of Texas received notice from President Lincoln that slavery had been abolished a declaration that was codified in the 13th amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19th also marks the day that African Americans in the southern states exercised independence from those who benefitted from their labors 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, this June 19th celebration weighs heavily on our hearts and minds with the first anniversary of George Floyd's murder, and while persons of color continue to be treated unequally under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, the pain and anguish displayed on our national stage 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 deeply into their heart and souls to recognize realities; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans comprise 20% of our County population, adding to our rich cultural tapestry; and

**WHEREAS**, several Wake communities, including Raleigh and Cary, will hold festivals commemorating Juneteenth; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board is committed to identifying actionable items to improve policies and procedures, to improve 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, COVID-impacted small business assistance, pre-k programs, and by supporting the County Manager's diversity and inclusiveness initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Wake County Government is expanding its cultural awareness training and has launched the WakeUP! program to advance diversity, equity and inclusiveness in our employee culture and work practices; and

**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 7th day of June 2021.

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Matthew M. Calabria, Chair  
Wake County Board of Commissioners