



**RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19TH AS
“JUNETEENTH” IN GASTON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the Southern United States; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater success and reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and,

WHEREAS, The first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members and neighbors and today is a time of remembrance and celebration within communities throughout the country that promotes and cultivates knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County is proud to celebrate this historic day for the first time and is excited to join the Third Annual Juneteenth celebration along with the City of Gastonia, Hope Youth Network and our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office at the Rotary Pavilion on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from Noon – 5:00 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on behalf of all of Gaston County, do hereby declare June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in Gaston County, North Carolina and urge all citizens to join in celebrating this day of significance in the history and heritage of our nation and county.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:
