



OUR CHILDREN—OUR FUTURE

Ravenswood City School District
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Board Members:
M. F. Chester Palesoo, President
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Marcelino López, Clerk
John Bostic, Member
Jacqueline Greene, Member

Maria De la Vega
Superintendent

RESOLUTION 939

In support of the Annual JUNETEENTH National Holiday Observance

Whereas, for more than 143 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance in the United States. Also known as "Emancipation Day", "Emancipation Celebration", "Freedom Day", "Jun-Jun", "Juneteenth Independence Day" and "Juneteenth." Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due to God given strength and determination, of African-Americans, who were first brought to this country in a month long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. For the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration, Juneteenth has finally been "officially recognized" as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

Whereas, this reality is particularly underscored by the fact that it was in the 1st session of the 105th Congress via the bipartisan cooperation of the Former Congresswoman Barbara Rose-Collins (D-Michigan), Former Senator Carol Mosely-Braun (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma), Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), that Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 were successfully shepherded through both Houses of Congress, in a successful effort to officially recognize Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent in 1997; and

Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries-of-origin, share in a common love of and respect for "freedom", as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "tenets-of-freedom" are guaranteed and protected. The "19th of June" or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the "4th of July", completes the "cycle of freedom" for America's Independence Day observances. "Until All are Free, None are Free" is an oft repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is sponsoring the premier celebration, concert, worship services and campaign to commemorate America's 2nd Independence Day Observance, the "19th of June", as one which completes the cycle of America's 18th century Independence Movement, initiated with the "4th of July", 1776 "Declaration of Independence"

and to recognize this country's movement toward a "One America", advanced by a sincere dialogue of the realization of what Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial healing, reconciliation, restoration and justice, through the National Day of Reconciliation and Healing From the Legacy of Slavery and the National Juneteenth Black Holocaust "Maafa" Memorial Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Ravenswood City School District hereby adopts this resolution and encourages participation of our members, families and communities in the Annual JUNETEENTH National Holiday Observance, in the City of East Palo Alto, during the week of the "19th of June".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Ravenswood City School District passed and adopted this resolution at a meeting held on the 12th day of June 2008, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Dated this 12th day of June 2008.

Clerk of the Governing Board of the
Ravenswood City School District of
San Mateo County, State of California