



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNETEENTH FLAG RAISED AT SAN DIEGO CITY HALL IN RECOGNITION OF FREEDOM, HISTORY AND BLACK COMMUNITY

SAN DIEGO — The Juneteenth flag was raised this morning outside the City Administration Building at San Diego City Hall, continuing the City's public recognition of the history, significance and enduring legacy of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that more than 250,000 enslaved Black people were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had declared enslaved people in Confederate states free.

"Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, but it is also a reminder that freedom did not arrive at the same time, or in the same way, for everyone in this country," said Councilmember Henry L. Foster III. "It is a celebration of Black joy, liberty, family, culture, faith, freedom, and of the generations of Black communities and families that continued to thrive despite barriers. As we raise this flag, we honor that legacy and continue the work of advancing equity, expanding opportunity and removing barriers for Black communities."

For many years, Juneteenth was recognized at City Hall through a ceremonial presentation led by Council District 4 and the City of San Diego's Black Employees Association. In 2020, a Juneteenth flag was displayed at City Hall for the first time. The following year, the flag was raised outside the City Administration Building for the first time as City leaders joined community members in publicly recognizing Juneteenth.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday when President Joe Biden signed legislation on June 17, 2021. California later established Juneteenth as a state holiday through Assembly Bill 1655, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 29, 2022.

The raising of the Juneteenth flag serves as both a celebration and a call to reflection. It recognizes the strength, resilience and contributions of Black communities while acknowledging that the work toward dignity, equity and opportunity continues.

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Councilmember Foster represents San Diego's Fourth Council District, including communities of Alta Vista, Broadway Heights, Chollas View, Emerald Hills, Encanto, Greater Skyline Hills, Jamacha, Lincoln Park, Lomita Village, Mountain View, North Bay Terraces, O'Farrell, Oak Park, Paradise Hills, Ridgeview, South Bay Terraces, Valencia Park, and Webster.

Councilmember Foster is the Chair of the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee, Vice Chair of the Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, Member of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and Member of the Community & Neighborhood Services Committee.