



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER VIVIAN MORENO**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 29, 2021

TO: Mara Elliot, City Attorney

FROM: Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe, Fourth Council District
Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Eighth Council District

SUBJECT: Establish Juneteenth (June 19th) as a legal City holiday

The Offices of Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe and Councilmember Vivian Moreno are seeking to establish Juneteenth as a legal holiday for the City of San Diego starting June 19, 2022.

On March 5, 2021 the Office of Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe submitted a Legal Services Request (LSR) inquiring about the official process to establish Juneteenth as a City holiday. On April 5, 2021 your Office delivered a timely preliminary response and analysis to the questions outlined on the LSR. In summary, your Office clearly delineated the difference between a “day of observance” versus a “legal” holiday and more importantly indicated it is legally permissible for the City to establish Juneteenth as a City holiday given certain policy determinations. These determinations include, meet and confer for holiday pay, MOUs with the City’s recognized employee organizations, and state law preemption.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday. In the spirit of the now federal “legal” holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, our Offices would like to know if the process outlined within the April 5, 2021 response to the LSR still applies, given the federal government’s recent actions. If not, please define the alternative process we would need to undergo to create a City holiday that is also a federally observed legal holiday.

As Juneteenth is a momentous day in African American history, our Offices firmly believe the City recognize its significance by establishing June 19 a legal holiday in the City of San Diego.

MMS:me

cc: Joan Dawson, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney
Henry Foster III, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe
Perri Storey, Comms Director, Office of Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe
Travis Knowles, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Vivian Moreno
Kevin Smith, Chief of Policy, Office of Councilmember Vivian Moreno