

## RESOLUTION 2023-03

### RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH JUNETEENTH AS A RECOGNIZED TOWN HOLIDAY

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, nearly nine decades after our Nation's founding, and more than 2 years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas finally received word that they were free from bondage.

**WHEREAS**, as those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today. In its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans.

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day of profound weight and power. A day in which we remember the mortal stain and terrible toll of slavery on our nation, and a legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity. But it is also a day that reminds us of our capacity to heal, hope and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve.

**WHEREAS**, on Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. As we celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility. That work has been led throughout our history by abolitionists and educators, civil rights advocates and lawyers, courageous activists and public officials, and everyday Americans who have helped make real the ideals of our founding documents for all.

**WHEREAS**, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.

**WHEREAS**, at least 28 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth as a permanent paid and/or observed holiday through adoption of legislation or executive action as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States.

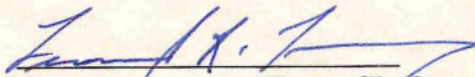
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that a meeting of the Kingstree Town Council duly called in compliance with the rules of the Town Council and held at Council Chambers, Frank H. McGill Complex, Kingstree, South Carolina, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August (month), 2023, the following resolution was passed:

- (1) The Town of Kingstree recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day;
- (2) The Town of Kingstree supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day in observance of the end of slavery as part of the history and heritage of the United States;

- (3) The Town of Kingstree designates June 19, 2024, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in which the Town of Kingstree offices will be closed;
- (4) The Town of Kingstree establishes "Juneteenth Independence Day" as an annually observed holiday for the Town of Kingstree.

**AND IT IS SO RESOLVED.**

**ATTEST:**

  
Leonard Lowery, Town Clerk

  
Earl Darren Tisdale, Mayor