



News Release

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Board Moves Toward Recognizing Juneteenth as a Countywide Holiday

Supervisor Cortese's Proposal Receives Strong Community Support

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors moved forward on Tuesday, August 11, to declaring Juneteenth as a Countywide holiday starting next year, joining just a handful of counties across the country to recognize this day.

Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal was approved unanimously by the Board to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States 30 months and 19 days after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, that Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

The vote followed dozens of speakers who asked the Board to approve the proposal and recognize the legacy of injustice against people of color. Supervisor also received many letters and other voices of support from the community.

“Designating Juneteenth as a County holiday will be one of the ways to further correct the inequities of the past and our move toward ending systemic racism,” Cortese said. “It is significant that this day be added to the County’s holiday observances that include honoring Cesar Chavez, Dr. Martin Luther King, among others.”

For more information, call the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.