

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL

BOSTON CITY COUNCILORS CHARLES C. YANCEY AND CHUCK TURNER

JUNETEENTH 2010

- WHEREAS: Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately eleven and one-half million African-Americans survived voyage to the New World only to be subjected to whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth, or the *19th of June*, celebrates the day of June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwest; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth, which is America's oldest African-American holiday observance, occurred more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Chairman of the National Juneteenth Christian Leadership Council, says official recognition of Juneteenth Independence Day by state governments and Congress are very significant steps in bringing healing to America from the legacy of slavery; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth is currently recognized as a day of observance by 36 states throughout the nation; and
- WHEREAS: Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick in 2007 signed a proclamation making June 19 a day of observance to commemorate the date when the last people held as slaves in the United States learned of their freedom; and
- WHEREAS: Juneteenth, according to the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign, is also recognized as a national day of observance in Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Delaware, Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, California, Wyoming, Illinois, Missouri, Connecticut, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Colorado, Arkansas, Oregon, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, South Carolina, Vermont, Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and the District of Columbia; Be It Therefore
- RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, celebrates this 145th Juneteenth Independence day by declaring June 19th, 2010 as Juneteenth Day in the City of Boston.

In City Council **ADOPTED**

JUN 23 2010

Rosaria Salerno
CITY CLERK

By: *Charles C. Yancey*
President of the City Council

Attest: *Chuck Turner*
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: June 23, 2010