

BY AUTHORITY

2 ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
3 SERIES OF 2021

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB21-0079  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:  
Finance & Governance

**A BILL**

**For an ordinance adding a new section 2-6 to Article 1, Chapter 2, formally recognizing Juneteenth.**

10 WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger delivered news that the Civil  
11 War had ended and enslaved people were now free to residents of Galveston, TX – the last area left  
12 to formally acknowledge this reality – almost 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the  
13 Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and,

14 WHEREAS, commemoration of the end of slavery has since been celebrated as Juneteenth,  
15 beginning first as a holiday in Texas and now formally as a day of observance in 45 states across the  
16 nation and in the District of Columbia; and,

17 WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council encourage Colorado to join the ranks of those states  
18 formally commemorating Juneteenth and encourage the Federal government to likewise act to  
19 acknowledge the continued tradition of Juneteenth; and,

20 WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver has a long and storied history of celebrating  
21 Juneteenth, with the first celebration happening in 1953 in Denver's historic Five Points neighborhood,  
22 and today includes an annual parade and music festival; and,

23 WHEREAS, Denver is committed to racial and social justice and Juneteenth represents an  
24 opportunity for celebrating African-American freedom, heritage and achievement while also  
25 encouraging education, healing and respect,

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF  
27 DENVER:

28           Section 1. That Article I of Chapter 2, D.R.M.C. shall be amended by adding a new section 2-6  
29 to read as follows:

### 30 Sec 2-6. – Juneteenth.

31 On the Saturday closest to June 19th in each year, hereafter to be known as "Juneteenth,"  
32 appropriate observance may be held by the public in commemoration and to honor the spirit of  
33 freedom and understanding the experiences that have shaped our nation.

34 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and final publication.

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: February 2, 2021  
2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: February 9, 2021 by Consent  
3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Stan Gilmore - PRESIDENT  
5 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_  
6 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
9  
10 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
11  
12 PREPARED BY: Kirsten J. Crawford, Assistant City Attorney DATE: February 9, 2021  
13  
14 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the  
15 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed  
16 ordinance. The proposed ordinance **is not** submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §  
17 3.2.6 of the Charter.  
18  
19 Kristin M. Bronson, City Attorney  
20  
21 BY: Jonathan Griffin, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Feb 10, 2021