

1 BY AUTHORITY

2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2021

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

6 A BILL

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

9
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.
35

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: February 2, 2021
2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: February 9, 2021 by Consent
3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 22, 2021

4 Steve Filmore - 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

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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

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21 BY: Jonathan Griffin, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Feb 10, 2021