

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4591

AMENDING THE POLICY NUMBER 305 REGARDING THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY'S HOLIDAYS POLICY IN THE BENEFIT PROGRAMS SECTION OF THE CITY'S POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL TO ADD JUNE 19 AS THE JUNETEENTH CITY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest recognized celebration observing the freedom of African Americans from slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an historic milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the harness of slavery and the basic civil rights of freedom and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the celebrating Juneteenth honors those 11 1/2 million African-Americans who survived, in chains, the voyage to the Americas as well as those millions that did not survive the journey. For more than 200 years, enslaved African-Americans were stripped of their humanity by forced family separation, rape, branding, whipping, mutilation and death; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, but it had minimal immediate effect on the majority of enslaved people who remained in captivity and oppressed by slave owners despite the Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Federal Troops arrived in Confederate -controlled Texas to take possession of the state and to enforce the emancipation of enslaved people throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, two years, five months and eighteen days after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the last of those enslaved within the borders of the United States were freed by General Granger; and

WHEREAS, the word, "Juneteenth" became the name for the joyous celebration of freedom from slavery as a result of the words "June Nineteenth" combined together in speech; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 205 Americans cities and is officially recognized by 46 states. Governor Eric Holcomb issued an Executor Order making Indiana the 34th State to recognize Juneteenth for observance as a State Holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is not enough for the City of Michigan City to enjoy parades, marches, and other events celebrating Juneteenth and that the City must recognize Juneteenth as an official City Holiday which will help support the campaign to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth honors and reflects our value of inclusivity with regards to our City as a whole and our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City is a place where thousands of African-Americans never succumb to a despair or cynicism and have always believed they would write their own destiny; and

WHEREAS, the City Michigan City can serve as a symbol and vessel that helps push the campaign to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA HEREBY ORDAINS, as follow:

That June 19 is declared to be the Juneteenth holiday for the City of Michigan City and that Policy No. 305 (Holidays) in the Benefit Programs Section of the City of Michigan City's Policy & Procedures Manual shall be amended to read as follows:

The City will grant paid time off to all eligible full and part time employees on the Holidays listed below. Any additional Holidays may be proposed at the discretion of the Mayor and are to be presented to the Common Council for approval.

Designation effect. The following days shall be a legal holiday for City employees.

1. January 1, New Year's Day.
2. Third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.
3. Third Monday in February, President's Day
4. Good Friday (Friday before Easter)
5. Primary Election
6. Last Monday in May, Memorial Day.
7. **June 19, Juneteenth.**
8. July 4, Independence Day.
9. First Monday in September, Labor Day.
10. Second Monday in October, Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples' Day)
11. First Tuesday in November, General Election Day.
12. November 11, Veteran's Day.
13. Fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving.
14. Fourth Friday Day in November, after Thanksgiving.
15. December 24, Christmas Eve
16. December 25, Christmas Day.
17. December 31, New Year's Eve Day

That this Ordinance shall become effective and Juneteenth holiday will be observed beginning June 19, 2022 and every year thereafter.

That any provision of any Ordinance or part of Ordinance that is in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are surpassed by the provisions of this Ordinance to the extent of the conflict.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Tracie Tillman, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Sean Fitzpatrick, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Gene Simmons, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Paul A. Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORED BY: /s/ Dalia Zygas, Member
Michigan City Common Council

Passed by the Common Council this 20th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Michael Mack, President
Michigan City Common Council

Approved by me this 21st day of July, 2021.

/s/ Duane Parry, Mayor
City of Michigan City, Indiana

ATTEST: /s/Gale A Neulieb, Clerk
City of Michigan City, Indiana