

ORDINANCE NO. 5857

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY OF MEMPHIS CODE OF ORDINANCES-LEGAL HOLIDAYS TO ADD JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council recognizes the need to establish a new holiday to recognize the end of slavery which did not reach the new frontier of the United States of America, in particular the State of Texas, including Southwestern states, until a month after the conclusion of the Civil War on April 9, 1865, more than two and one-half (2 ½) years after President Abraham Lincoln formally issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with welcomed news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved in the Southwest began celebrating June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," to inspire and encourage future generations; and

WHEREAS, forty-seven (47) States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all enslaved African Americans in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by formerly enslaved African Americans and the descendants of formerly enslaved African Americans remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, despite the formal issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, slavery was not officially abolished throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its history, the City of Memphis has seen the damaging effects of slavery, the fight for freedom by way of the civil rights movement, and present-day efforts to achieve equity for all; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Code of Ordinances establishes Title 3-Personnel, Chapter 3-4 Personnel Regulations Generally, Section 3-4-2.-Legal Holidays for City of Memphis employees adopted on June 27, 1972 and supplemented on December 8, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS that the provisions of the Memphis Code of Ordinances Title 3, Chapter 3-4, Sections 3-4-2 relative to the City of Memphis Division of Human Resources Legal Holidays be hereby amended to add and proclaim a paid holiday for June 19, 2023 (Juneteenth Independence Day) and hereafter, as a paid holiday for the City of Memphis and employees.

SECTION 2: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS that the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby severable and if any of these sections, provisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or parts are held unconstitutional or void, the remainder of this Ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, that this Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date it shall have been passed by the Council of the City of Memphis, signed by the Chairperson of the City Council, certified and delivered to the Office of the Mayor in writing by the Comptroller and become effective as otherwise provided by law.

SPONSOR(S):

Michalyn Easter-Thomas
Martavius Jones

CHAIRMAN:

Martavius Jones

THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE

5857 PASSED

1st Reading 02/21/2023

2nd Reading 03/07/2023

3rd Reading 03/21/2023

Approved: Martavius Jones
Chairman of Council

Date Signed: 11 - Apr - 23

APPROVED: [Signature]
Mayor, City of Memphis

Date Signed: 4/26/23

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy, and said document was adopted by the Council of the City of Memphis as above indicated and approved by the Mayor.

Valerie C. Soper
Comptroller