



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Juneteenth commemorates the abolishment of slavery in the United States of America by memorializing the day two and a half years after the emancipation proclamation when 250,000 African-descended enslaved people in the State of Texas learned they were free.

And

WHEREAS Juneteenth honors the contributions of African Americans to society

And

Whereas more broadly this holiday is about the history of our nation and how and when we pause to reflect on America's past sends a significant message that is important to every County staff member, every individual in our community and every resident of the United States.

And

WHEREAS the Juneteenth holiday has gone on to be a cause for celebration, remembrance and a call to action as Americans continue to reckon with the country's history of systemic racism.

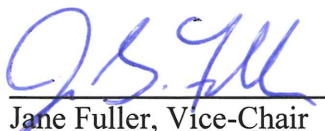
THEREFORE, the San Juan County Council, having already joined the State of Washington and the United States government in establishing Juneteenth as a paid holiday, wishes to further this opportunity to educate on a critical narrative and milestone of American Justice.

We will work with the community throughout the years 2023-2024 to develop an annual event to bring an educational component to our recognition of the commemoration of the Generals Order #3 at Galveston, Texas on June 19th, 1865 .

The Council wishes to recognize City of Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards for the words contributed to this proclamation.



Cindy Wolf, Chair
District 2



Jane Fuller, Vice-Chair
District 3



Christine Minney, Member
District 1