

# **Proposed City Code Amendment to establish Juneteenth as a paid holiday for city employees**

## **Proposed City Code Amendment**

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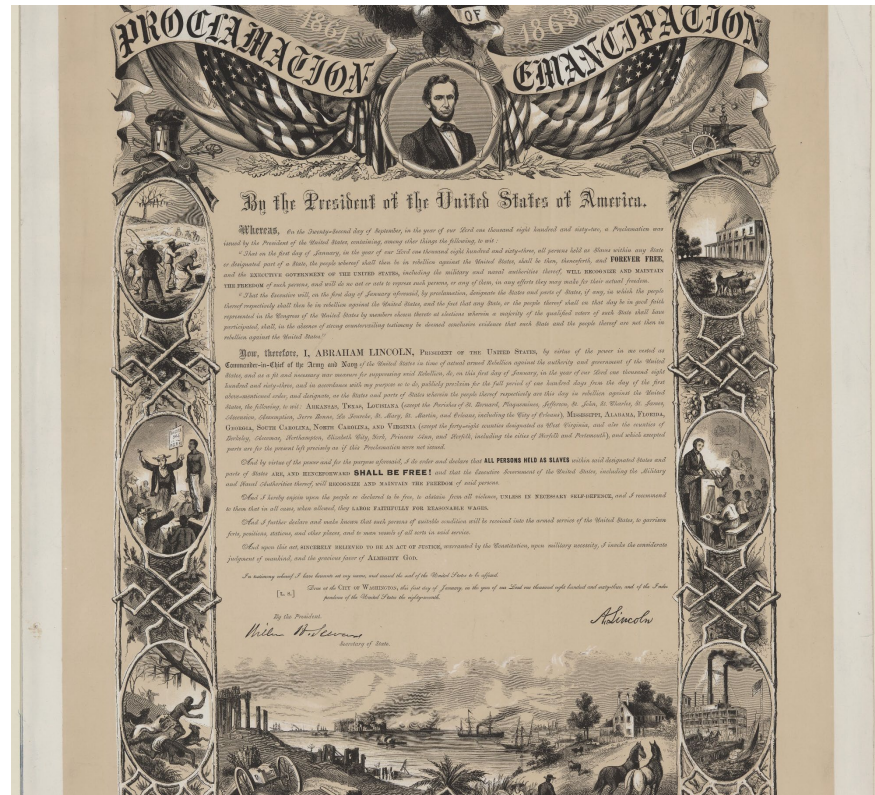


## **Direction Needed from Council**

Direct staff to bring back an ordinance amending the City Code to add June 19 (Juneteenth), as a paid holiday for city employees, for final action at a future meeting

# Agenda

1. Background
2. Recommendation
3. Considerations
4. Council Direction



# Background

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- On June 19, 1865, more than two years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, news that slavery was abolished and that all enslaved people had been freed was announced in Galveston, Texas by Union soldiers
- Historic significance of “Juneteenth” – observes the end of slavery in practice in the United States of America as well as recognizes the contributions by Americans of African descent to our society
- During the 2021 regular session, the Washington State Legislature passed a law establishing June 19<sup>th</sup>, recognized as Juneteenth, as a state holiday



# Background, continued

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- The bill stated in part that the adoption of the paid holiday is to recognize the “catastrophic and unrelenting legacy of trauma for generations of Black/African Americans” caused by slavery, and that “the historical and continued harms of slavery and the rejoicing of the end of this atrocity should be acknowledged and celebrated by all Washingtonians”
- In 2022 there will be an additional paid holiday for state employees
- On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, recognizing Juneteenth as the twelfth federal holiday

# Option for City of Bellevue

- As per RCW 1.16.050(6), the legislative body of a local government may choose to adopt the state's holiday schedule or to adopt more or fewer holidays by resolution or ordinance



# Other Local Jurisdictions

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Many local governments and public entities have chosen to recognize Juneteenth including:

Anacortes	Kent	Redmond
Auburn	King County	Renton
Bothell	Lakewood	Seattle
Clark County	Lynnwood	SeaTac
Edmonds	Maple Valley	Tacoma
Everett	NORCOM	Tumwater
Federal Way	Olympia	Vancouver
Issaquah	Port Townsend	Whatcom County



# Direction Needed from Council

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Direct staff to bring back an ordinance amending the City Code to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday for city employees for final action at a future meeting

