

**UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-22

**A RESOLUTION OF UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, IN CELEBRATION OF "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY,"
RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF
SLAVERY REACHED THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES**

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived on July 4, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding such "self-evident" truths, between 1525 and 1866, an estimated 12.5 million men, women and children were captured and forcibly transported in bondage from their African homelands to North America, the Caribbean, and South America, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, many of whom did not survive; and

WHEREAS, the transatlantic slave trade represents one of the longest and most sustained assaults on the life, integrity, and dignity of human beings in history and is one of the greatest tragedies in the history of human kind; and

WHEREAS, at 2 p.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as enslaved people within any rebel State, known as the Confederacy, "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"; and

WHEREAS, news or enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the frontier, in particular the State of Texas and the other southwestern states, until Union troops, commanded by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, announcing the end of the Civil War and issuing General Order No.3, which proclaimed all enslaved people to be free, including absolute equality in personal rights; and

WHEREAS, Slavery, as an institution, was officially abolished in all States with the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2019, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed into law HB 619 also recognizing June 19th as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in Pennsylvania in honor of the memory, resilience, courage, and determination of enslaved persons and of all Americans, living and dead, who embody Dr. King's quote: "None are free until all are free," and further recognizing that the abolition of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the Commonwealth, and encouraging the continued celebration and observance of "Juneteenth Independence Day" with appropriate ceremonies, activities and program; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making June 19 a legal public holiday. Juneteenth is the day that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it, and it is hereby **RESOLVED** by Upper Darby Township Council proclaims its support for celebrating "Juneteenth Independence Day" on June 19, 2022, with its Federal observance on June 20, 2022, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and supporting the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for all people to learn more about the past and to understand better the experiences that have shaped our Nation, the Commonwealth, and our Township as well as the continuing journey and struggle for freedom and equality in the United States

ADOPTED and RESOLVED this 15th day of June, 2022

BY: _____
BRIAN K. BURKE
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____
MICHELLE BILLUPS
SECRETARY OF COUNCIL

Resolution No. 25-22 is hereby approved this 15th day of June, 2022

BY: _____
BARBARANN KEFFER
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
VINCENT A. RONGIONE, ESQ.
CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER