

Intro. Res. No. 1573-2020

Laid on Table 6/23/2020

Introduced by Legislators Richberg, Calarco, Sunderman, Gonzalez, Berland, Fleming, Hahn, Anker and Spencer

**RESOLUTION NO. 465 -2020, COMMEMORATING  
JUNETEENTH IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, in Executive Order 204, the Governor of New York State recognized Juneteenth as a holiday for state employees in 2020, and stated his intention to establish it as a permanent state holiday in future years; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of all enslaved individuals in the United States, which did not occur until almost 2 and a half years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is celebrated annually to commemorate June 19th 1865, the date when the last jurisdiction in the United States read the Emancipation Proclamation, signaling that all enslaved persons throughout the nation were finally notified of their freedom. On that day, Union army general Gordon Granger read the federal orders in the city of Galveston, Texas proclaiming that all enslaved persons in the state of Texas were free; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an important date in American history and should be recognized so that everyone can be educated about its' significance both at the time and in the present day; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth should be recognized in Suffolk County through educational programs and the intentional darkening of certain County facilities; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that, beginning in 2021 and continuing every year thereafter, Suffolk County shall commemorate Juneteenth on June 19<sup>th</sup> with educational events and programming to commemorate the significance and history of June 19, 1865 in American history; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the County hereby authorizes, empowers, and directs the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission to develop and coordinate at least one event, in conjunction with the Office of Minority Affairs and community organizations, for the purpose of acknowledging and recognizing the significance of Juneteenth to educate and bring awareness of the history behind this important holiday; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that, beginning in 2021 and continuing every year thereafter, on the evening of June 19<sup>th</sup>, the H. Lee Dennison Executive Office Building and the Suffolk County Legislature William H. Rogers Building shall remain intentionally unlit in order to commemorate Juneteenth and the struggle to freedom for all enslaved individuals in the United States; and be it further

**4th RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or

continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 23, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: July 9, 2020