

**Before the Board of County Commissioners  
Martin County, Florida  
A Proclamation**

**Recognizing June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Freedom Day  
in Martin County, Florida**

- Whereas,** Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States and the emancipation of African American slaves, recognizing the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; and
- Whereas,** Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 with news that the war had ended and the enslaved were now free. On that first Juneteenth, the people of Texas were read General Order Number 3, which stated: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”; and
- Whereas,** the first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members. Today, Juneteenth continues to grow within communities and organizations throughout the country. Numerous local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen alongside older organizations with the common mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and
- Whereas,** on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds us of the precious promises of freedom, equality and opportunity which are the core of the American dream.
- Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Martin County Board of County Commissioners recognizes June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Freedom Day.

**Presented this Twenty-third Day of June 2026**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

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SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

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EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

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EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

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STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

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J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER