

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-066

AN ORDINANCE COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KENT WHO ARE ENTITLED TO HOLIDAYS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday in the United States. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States. The holiday's name is a portmanteau of the words "June" and "nineteenth", as it was on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, early celebrations date back to 1866, at first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas. They spread across the South amongst newly freed African American slaves and their descendants and became more commercialized in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival; and,

WHEREAS, during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, these celebrations were eclipsed by the nonviolent determination to achieve civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African-American freedom and African-American arts; and,

WHEREAS, beginning with Texas by proclamation in 1938, and by legislation in 1979, every U.S. state and the District of Columbia has formally recognized the holiday in some way; and,

WHEREAS, the day was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law; and,

WHEREAS, the holiday is considered the "longest-running African-American holiday" and has been called "America's second Independence Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Kent City Council hereby authorizes the commemoration of Juneteenth as an official CITY holiday for all City of Kent employees entitled to holidays either via a Collective Bargaining Agreement or General Compensation Plan. Juneteenth shall be celebrated on June 19th of every year.

SECTION 2. As a result of prior negotiation, the Dispatch Unit has Juneteenth as a holiday in its Collective Bargaining Agreement. In order to get the holiday, the Union gave up one floating holiday. That floating holiday shall be restored to the Dispatch Unit

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: July 24, 2024
Date

J. Fiala
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: July 24, 2024
Date

ATTEST: Amy Wilkens
Amy Wilkens, CMC
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2024-066, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON July 24, 2024.

Amy Wilkens
AMY WILKENS, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(SEAL)