RESOLUTION 2022-112

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2022 AS JUNETEETH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, General Edward McCook, on May 20, 1865, rode into Tallahassee to execute enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation and announced that enslaved Africans in Florida were freed; and

WHEREAS, after Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865, and announced the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery, African Americans in Texas began celebrating that date to commemorate their release from chattel enslavement; and

WHEREAS, ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United State officially abolished slavery in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature in 1991 designated June 19th of each year as "Juneteenth Day" in recognition of the traditional observance that began in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 2021 passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making "Juneteenth" a federal holiday; and

1

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechee Nation, and many of the Gullah/Geechee people in Nassau County who descend from enslaved people, have traditionally recognized June 19, 1865, as the date their ancestors received independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this <u>13th</u> day of June, 2022 that:

- The Board hereby proclaims June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth Independence Day in Nassau County.
- 2. The Board hereby joins the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida in encouraging residents to celebrate during programs, events and holiday observances throughout the County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

AARON C. BELL Its: Chairman

ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE: JOHN A. CRAWFORD Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney

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