



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Consideration of the recognition of Juneteenth as a holiday for the City of Novi

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Manager's office

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 19, 1865, 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas. In 2021 the federal government officially recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Currently, the City of Novi recognizes 13 holidays where City offices are closed:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- President's Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (December 24)
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Event Day (December 31)

At the request of Mayor Gatt, a previously scheduled City Council meeting was moved to June 26th in acknowledgment of Juneteenth. In follow-up conversations, it was suggested that City Council be provided the opportunity to consider making Juneteenth the 14th holiday for City staff and a day when City offices would be closed. The Novi Library made this change in 2021.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of the recognition of Juneteenth as a new holiday for the City of Novi