RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, June 19th is nationally recognized as Juneteenth - the oldest known American celebration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act," into law, which designates Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal Federal holiday*;* and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth National Holiday commemorates and celebrates the historical significance of June 19, 1865, nine decades after our Nation's founding and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received the word that they were free to mark the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans and especially within the City of Fremont as our newest City of Fremont and Federal holiday as Juneteenth National Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Fremont City Council takes pride in and celebrates our diversity and works to foster the common values and commitments that unite all people, regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural heritage, national origin, citizenship status, disability, physical attributes, socio-economic status, gender, race, or personal views on religion; and

WHEREAS, Fremont City Council supports a just and inclusive society by speaking out with a public and unified voice against all forms of racism, discrimination, harassment, hatred, violence directed at racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, Fremont City Council believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, cultural, political, religious, and social facets of society.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Fremont City Council hereby recognizes and honors June 19th as National Juneteenth Independence Day to recommit ourselves to diversity, equality, and inclusion throughout the City of Fremont to continue to make it a better community for all.