WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, that on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 46 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohlone Community College Board of Trustees recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States and recognizes June 19, 2021 as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” and supports the celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the Ohlone College community to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of June, 2021.

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Secretary, Board of Trustees
Ohlone Community College District
County of Alameda, State of California