

## **RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in the South. However, slave owners ignored that order and slaves did not know that they were free; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended and that slaves were free; and

**WHEREAS**, although slavery has been abolished for more 150 years, the exploitation of Black labor continues to this day through a systemically racist economy designed to promote wage disparity in the workplace and the chronic unemployment of Black people; and we must continue to fight against union busting tactics and right to work laws that are rooted in racism because none of us are free until we all are free; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2021, the US Senate unanimously passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and it subsequently passed through the US House of Representatives on June 16, 2021, was signed into law on June 17, 2021 by President Joseph R. Biden and became the 11<sup>th</sup> federal holiday; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has historically been at the forefront of economic, social and racial justice and recognize June 19th as a federal holiday; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Convention the International Brotherhood of Teamsters strongly encourages all Joint Councils, Local Unions, and other Teamster affiliates to aggressively propose and negotiate for Juneteenth to become a paid holiday in all Teamster contracts.