



TOWN OF DURHAM  
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## **RESOLUTION #2026-08 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

### **REAFFIRMING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGALLY RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY AND REAFFIRMING DURHAM'S OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF OPPRESSION.**

**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 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 is now a recognized federal holiday as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States and is now a Durham Town Holiday for non-union personnel;

**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**, systems of oppression including Jim Crow, sharecropping and redlining diminished African American wealth into the twentieth century, and inequities remain to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Juneteenth Presidential Proclamation calls for Americans to celebrate the emancipation of all Black Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that can never be tolerated and must always be fought against; and

**WHEREAS**, slavery was legal, condoned, and existed in Durham for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Durham has a long history of supporting emancipation and the rights of every human, including recognition in the Congressional Record of May 21, 1838, of the pro-abolition acts of Lucy Parker and 118 other women of Durham in the State of New Hampshire.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Durham first adopted Resolution #2023-17 on June 5, 2023, recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day as a local holiday.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire, does hereby adopt **Resolution #2026-08** reaffirming its recognition of June 19<sup>th</sup> this year and each year going forward as Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of Durham to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States.

**NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Juneteenth Independence Day recognizes the important role of emancipation, and that the Town of Durham respects the dignity of every human being and opposes any form of oppression.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026 by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council with 9 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstentions.

  
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Joe Friedman, Chair  
Durham Town Council

**ATTEST:**

  
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Rachel Dean, Town Clerk-Tax Collector