City of Santa Rosa

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Festival was first organized in 1970 by students from the Santa Rosa Junior College to continue the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in April 1969; and

WHEREAS, the festival took on a new meaning with the recognition of Dr. King's Birthday as a federal holiday, designated on the third Monday in January; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation proclamation was signed on September 22,1862 with an effective date of January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the day when those enslaved in Galveston, Texas finally received word of their freedom on June 19,1865; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is observed by many communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the local Martin Luther King/Juneteenth Festival was born to keep the dream of Dr. King and the spirit of the Juneteenth alive in Santa Rosa; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 53rd Anniversary of the Martin Luther King/Juneteenth Festival in Santa Rosa; and

WHEREAS, the 53rdth Annual Juneteenth Community Festival Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion: Our History is Our Strength, will take place virtually, on Saturday, June 17, 2023

WHEREAS, this event is free and open to community members of all ages and will include a presentation on diversity and inclusion from Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow, music, a keynote speaker, sharing of history and culture, scholarship awards and more; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the NAACP of Sonoma County, Sonoma County Black Forum, North Bay Black Chamber, 100 Black Men of Sonoma County, and Petaluma Blacks for Community Development, invite the community to celebrate with us.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Natalie Rogers, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim

JUNE 19TH, 2023 AS JUNETEENTH

Mayor Natalie Rogers
June 17, 2023