

Town of Franklin

355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



Phone: (508) 520-4949
www.franklinma.gov

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

June 18, 2021

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
RE: Juneteenth Holiday

As you may be aware, the “Juneteenth” holiday was passed as a state holiday last year. This holiday is annually celebrated to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States and is commemorated on the anniversary date of June 19, 1865. See the [wikipedia page on the holiday here](#). The town appreciates all the hard work and commitment of our state legislature on this matter.

The Town Human Resources Director has been working with all seven unions to include this holiday in their contracts, in addition to the employment manual for all town staff. Given the short timeframe to implement due to the pandemic, the Town will officially observe this day off in June 2022 relative to the access of public buildings and staff. I want to thank all of the unions for their assistance in making this a supportive process.

As for this year, the Town library has an exhibit of suggested reading and educational materials on the holiday. It is my hope the community can come together in the future with enhanced recognition of the holiday.

As many may also note, on June 17, 2021 (yesterday) President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law after Congressional approval earlier this past week. It was the first new national holiday approved since Martin Luther King, Jr Day established in 1983.

Pending outcomes in the Executive Session, I am asking that the Town Council consider approving Resolution 21- 38 to ratify collective bargaining agreements relative to the Juneteenth holiday.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN

RESOLUTION 21-38

Ratify collective bargaining agreements relative to Juneteenth holiday

The Town Council hereby votes to ratify the amendment of the collective bargaining agreement for each of the following Town employee unions to add Juneteenth to the list of legal and observed holidays contained therein:

- AFSCME - AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1298 - Custodians
- AFSCME - AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1298 - Department of Public Works
- AFSCME - AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1298 - Public Facilities Maintenance Employees
- The Franklin Public Library Association - MLSA, Local 4928 - MFT, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO
- Franklin Police Association
- Franklin Police Sergeants Union
- International Association of Firefighters, Local 2637

This resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2021

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

Nancy Danello, CMC
Temporary Town Clerk

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council