A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE THIRD SATURDAY OF JUNE EVERY YEAR AS "JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY".

WHEREAS, as the state celebrates Juneteenth, let us call to action our national, state and local officials to create sweeping reforms within government regarding police and public safety in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, current protests and uprisings represent the continued quest for equality for Black Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, amid the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, protests for racial justice continue the spirit of Juneteenth, making it a fitting holiday for unprecedented times; and

WHEREAS, the unconscionable examples of racism witnessed over the past weeks and months come as communities of color
have been hit hardest by the coronavirus disease 2019 and

catastrophic job losses; and

WHEREAS, protestors are marching for justice in

unprecedented numbers and giving voice to the grief and anger

that generations of Americans have suffered at the hands of the

criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, with the celebration of Juneteenth in 2020, young

and old, black and white and family and friends have joined

together to say "enough"; and

WHEREAS, the thirteenth amendment to the constitution of

the United States abolished slavery throughout the United

States and its territories, and the significance of June 19,

1865 is that it is the day on which that message of freedom and

abolition reached the western states; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth promotes recognition of the importance

of African Americans as American citizens and New Mexico

residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the third

Saturday of June every year be recognized and celebrated as

"Juneteenth Freedom Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of New Mexico

honor Black Americans' continued quest for equality and the

traditions that celebrate freedom.