

1 [Commendation]

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3 **Resolution commending the Rev. Ishmeal Burch, organizer of the annual San**
4 **Francisco Juneteenth Festival and Parade honoring the independence of African**
5 **American slaves in Texas and the African American community in the City and County**
6 **of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery; and

9 WHEREAS, Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by
10 Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had
11 ended and that all slaves were now free; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, had little
13 impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of union troops to enforce the new executive
14 order; and,

15 WHEREAS, However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the
16 arrival of General Granger's Regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and
17 overcome the resistance; and,

18 WHEREAS, With the issuance of General Order Number 3 by General Granger, the
19 emancipation of slaves in Texas was reaffirmed; and,

20 WHEREAS, Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its
21 festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures
22 encountered in their new territory; and,

23 WHEREAS, The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more
24 participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each
25 other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members; and,

1 WHEREAS, Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical
2 Juneteenth activities you may witness today. Juneteenth is almost always focused on
3 education and self-improvement. Thus often guest speakers are brought in and the elders are
4 called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services were also a major part of these
5 celebrations; and,

6 WHEREAS, Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth
7 activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. However, The Civil Rights movement
8 of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations.
9 The resurgence of the fight for African American rights during this time and the Juneteenth
10 celebration provided inspiration for the lives of African Americans and gave inspiration as well
11 to the movements to improve their conditions; and,

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco has celebrated Juneteenth for many decades and not only
13 has it served as a premise for the celebration of the emancipation of slaves, it has as well
14 become a celebration of African Americans and the struggles which they faced through out
15 their fight for equality; and,

16 WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Celebration has united the African American community
17 and as well has provided an inclusive environment for all people to celebrate the diversity of
18 San Francisco; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Celebration and Festival held on June 16 and 17, 2001,
20 was a very successful, inclusive event which celebrated the African American culture and their
21 independence in 1865, and thus the efforts of the co-ordinators should be commended; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby commends the Rev.
24 Ishmeal Burch, organizer of the annual Juneteenth Festival and Parade honoring the
25

1 independence of African American slaves in Texas and the African American community in
2 the City and County of San Francisco.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 011213

Date Passed:

Resolution commending the Rev. Ishmeal Burch, organizer of the annual San Francisco Juneteenth Festival and Parade honoring the independence of African American slaves in Texas and the African American community in the City and County of San Francisco.

July 2, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin,
Sandoval

Absent: 2 - Maxwell, Yee

File No. 011213

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 2, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JUL 13 2001

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.