

Richmond Vermont Selectboard
Resolution In Support Of Displaying a Black Lives Matter Flag and Sign
June 2020

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter, the truth of which all citizens should hold to be self-evident;

WHEREAS, the town and the people of Richmond show a willingness to grow by acknowledging our responsibility to clearly and publicly support the worldwide movement for racial justice;

WHEREAS, although the majority of the residents in our state and our town are white, there is diversity in our community;

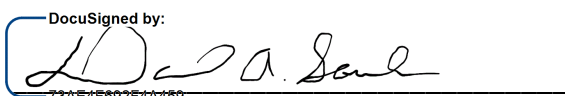
WHEREAS, the Town of Richmond supports equity and inclusion and recognizes the need to show Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our community that we support them, that the Town acknowledges the struggles they have faced, and that the Town seeks to set a standard for all people to respect these members of our community;

WHEREAS, the Town of Richmond recognizes the significance of the date of June 19, a date known as 'Juneteenth', in recognition of the day of June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers under the command of Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved people were now free. We cannot fail to observe that this event occurred eighty six years after the State of Vermont abolished slavery, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, more than two months after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, and seventeen days after Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered Confederate forces west of the Mississippi in Galveston on June 2, 1865; and

WHEREAS, we show support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the continued need for change, recognizing that change will not come solely from awareness of racism but from both discussion and action within our government and our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Richmond shall support the Black Lives Matter movement by displaying a 'Black Lives Matter' flag and a 'Black Lives Matter' sign for a period of three months, to begin by June 19, 2020, a date also known as 'Juneteenth', and a date proclaimed by Vermont Governor Phil Scott as JUNETEENTH RECOGNITION DAY on June 19, 2020.

Adopted by the Richmond Selectboard on June 22, 2020.

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David Sander, Selectboard Chair