June 17, 2020

I'm proud to announce today that all New York State offices will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2020, in observance of the 155th anniversary of Juneteenth, an annual commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States.

Each year, Juneteenth offers an opportunity to celebrate and honor the extraordinary achievements, perseverance, and contributions of African Americans everywhere while renewing our commitment to fighting for full equality and racial justice for all. In the midst of one of the most pivotal moments in our history, I am declaring this year’s Juneteenth a paid day off for all New York State employees to provide a chance to pause and reflect on the importance of this commemoration.

I will also be proposing a new law to declare Juneteenth as an official state holiday beginning next year, reinforcing New York’s commitment to recognizing the African American community’s invaluable role in our history as we continue to fight against injustice in all its forms.

Thank you, as always, for your dedicated service and invaluable partnership in making New York a national leader in equality and a beacon of diversity and unity for the rest of the world. I look forward to continuing our vital work in the weeks ahead. We couldn’t do it without you.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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