

My name is Jim Vincent and I am the immediate past President of the NAACP Providence Branch and a Senior Advisor of Black Lives Matter RI PAC.

I am testifying in strong support of Juneteenth joining nearly half of all of the United States in being a paid State Holiday.

Rhode Island would join the City of Providence, Phoenix, Los Angeles and the federal government in recognizing Juneteenth which is a celebration of the emancipation of African Americans in this country.

It is time for Rhode Island to recognize the contributions of African Americans who through free and other labor help build this state to what it is today!

Again, I am in strong support of Juneteenth being a paid State Holiday!

Thank you!