

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2026 –

WHEREAS, FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY, observed annually on May 20, commemorates the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in Tallahassee in 1865, marking the freedom of enslaved African Americans in Florida and representing a significant milestone in our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, this day serves as a time to reflect on the struggles, resilience, and contributions of African Americans, while honoring their enduring legacy in shaping Florida’s cultural, economic, and agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has long been a cornerstone of Hernando County’s identity, contributing to the vitality of our communities, local economy, and stewardship of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station, operated by Florida A&M University, plays a vital role in advancing sustainable agriculture, supporting farmers and landowners, and fostering education, innovation, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay History Center plays an important role in preserving and sharing the region’s history and, in partnership with Florida A&M University and other community organizations, commemorates **FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY** through the public reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and related educational programming; and

WHEREAS, Florida A&M University Farm Fest, hosted at Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station was organized by Florida A&M University in conjunction with the Tampa Bay History Center, bringing together residents, farmers, families, youth, and community partners to celebrate agriculture, history, and culture through hands-on experiences, educational demonstrations, local food, and heritage programming; and

WHEREAS, Florida A&M University Farm Fest provides an opportunity to honor Florida Emancipation Day by connecting history, agriculture, and community, highlighting the important contributions of African American farmers, land stewards, and innovators; and

WHEREAS, events such as Florida A&M University Farm Fest strengthen community bonds, promote agricultural literacy, inspire future generations, and celebrate the rich diversity and shared values of Hernando County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim May 20, 2026, as **FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY** in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners encourages all citizens to join in support of Florida A&M University Farm Fest, held in conjunction with the Tampa Bay History Center at the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station, and recognizes the significance of this event in promoting education, agricultural awareness, historical preservation, and community engagement.

SECTION 3. The Board of County Commissioners encourages all citizens to join in support of the efforts and initiatives led by Florida A&M University, the Tampa Bay History Center, the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station, community partners, and all participants, and recognizes their important role in advancing education, promoting preservation, supporting sustainability, and enhancing the quality of life within the community.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 12th day of May 2026, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Jerry Campbell
Chairman

John Allocco
Commissioner

Ryan Amsler
Vice Chairman

Brian Hawkins
Commissioner

Steve Champion
Second Vice Chairman