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Representative Driskell Announces Decision to Close Office in Honor of Juneteenth Day 2021 and Celebrate the New Federal Holiday

TAMPA, Fla. – On June 18, 2021, **Representative Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)** will close her office in recognition of Juneteenth, a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of slaves in the United States on June 19, for the second year in a row. This year marks approximately 156 years since federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, to announce to enslaved African Americans that they were free. The original celebration of Juneteenth Day came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. President Joe Biden’s leadership created history by making today the first federal Juneteenth holiday in U.S. history.

Representative Driskell provided the following statement:

“I commend President Biden for supporting U.S. Congressional efforts to finally make Juneteenth a federal holiday. This decision affirms the importance of Black history and the promise that in America, all persons are equally entitled to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Now it is time for the State of Florida to follow suit and recognize Juneteenth as a legal holiday. While Juneteenth is a Day of Observance in our state, that recognition does not rise to the status of a legal holiday and simply is not enough.”

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