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ILWU, a Proudly Diverse Union, Honors Juneteenth Federal Holiday and End of Slavery in U.S.

Some ILWU Locals are opting to schedule their contractually allowed stop-work meeting to observe the federal holiday on Monday, June 20

JUNE 14, 2022 (San Francisco, CA) – Dockworkers on the West Coast of the United States will proudly stand with the rest of the United States in commemorating Juneteenth, the second annual federal holiday marking the end of slavery in 1865. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union has a history of supporting Civil Rights in the United States and abroad, and is led by the union’s first African American International President, Willie Adams. Adams was first elected to the union’s top position in 2018 and was re-elected in 2021 by its membership in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and British Columbia, Canada.

“I am incredibly proud of my union’s history of being diverse and inclusive, and for elevating people of color to leadership positions where we can make sure every voice is heard,” said President Adams, who was elected to serve several terms as the ILWU’s International Secretary-Treasurer prior to being elected as International President. “It’s important for us as working Americans to stand with our communities, and to fix injustices when we see them. Slavery caused immeasurable pain for generations of African Americans, and the impacts are still with us every single day. It touches my heart that ILWU workers of all races are standing side-by-side to commemorate Juneteenth and to consider how we can build a better country together.”

Each of the 30 ILWU local unions on the West Coast is contractually entitled to take one stop-work meeting per month and notifies the employer in advance of its meeting. Some ILWU Local unions on the West Coast are opting to take this contractually allowed meeting to align with the federal holiday on Monday, June 20. The employer has been notified of this shift change where applicable, in the ports of Tacoma, Seattle, Oakland, and Los Angeles/Long Beach. The chosen shift at the local unions representing dockworkers at these ports is the day shift, and work will resume as scheduled for the evening shift.

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