

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that enslaved Americans in Confederate territory were free, paving the way for the passage of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, when U.S. Army troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to read General Order Number Three, informing residents that all enslaved people were now free; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning and has been celebrated by the Black community for more than 150 years, calling it Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations have spread from the South and are observed in different states throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Black community members in Thurston County have celebrated Juneteenth for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Washington State officially declared Juneteenth as a recognized holiday, and in 2021, Washington State officially declared Juneteenth as an official state holiday; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is honored to partner with the Women of Color in Leadership Movement to host a community Juneteenth Celebration Festival at the Rebecca Howard Park on June 18, 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council, does hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Olympia, Washington, and urge all residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and its role in the heritage of our nation and City.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 6th DAY OF June 2023.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Cheryl Selby
Mayor