

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021, AS JUNETEENTH DAY IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

- § 1. WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that all persons held as slaves shall be free; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, June 19th, now known as “Juneteenth,” is the oldest known celebration commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the State of Texas; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, large celebrations began on June 19th in 1866 and included the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, speakers with inspirational messages, stories from former slaves, food, games, rodeos, and dances; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the celebration of June 19th as Emancipation Day spread from Texas to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and then later appeared in Alabama, Florida, and California as African-American Texans migrated; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, Juneteenth is observed annually in remembrance and celebration of the day all remaining slaves acquired their freedom in the United States of America; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions the Black community has made, and continues to make; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, on Saturday, June 19, 2021, a Juneteenth Festival will take place in the City of Norman at Reaves Park to mark this important historical event and bring together families, residents, visitors, and local officials to celebrate this important event whose theme is Remember, Empower, and Celebrate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 9. Do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Day in the City of Norman and encourage all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in Black History and join me in a day of remembrance and celebration.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of June, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

