

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, yet our nation has a moral stain and terrible history of slavery with a legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which gave freedom to Black enslaved people in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, freedom became a reality much later for Black enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

WHEREAS, as one of the oldest US holidays, Juneteenth marks our country's second Independence Day, commemorating and celebrating the freeing of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants. It has historically been a time of prayer, reflections, and honoring achievements with community and family gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth also highlights all the achievements collectively through the pre and post Middle Passage, the slave trade, the emancipation era, Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as recent and current accomplishments of descendants of black enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth is specific to the emancipation of African descendants, its message promotes the continued freedom and economic prosperity of all individuals from all races, colors, creeds and cultures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver honors the theme for the 2023 Vancouver Juneteenth Freedom celebration, "...indivisible with liberty and justice for all." We recognize African Americans continue to struggle for true freedom and for full and equal protection, and we commit ourselves to recognizing and eliminating institutional and systemic racism and the consequences thereof within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as:

"Juneteenth Freedom Celebration Day"

and encourage all residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American history of our nation and City.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 15th day of June, 2023.

Anne McEnery-Ogle

ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR