

City of Vancouver, Washington **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 history of slavery with a legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity; and
- WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863, which acknowledged the freedom of 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 19th, 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. Honoring the tireless work to deliver the promise of America for all Americans; and
- WHEREAS, It has historically been a time of prayer, reflection, and honoring achievements with community and family gatherings; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth also highlights the resilience and collective accomplishments of Black Americans 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, Juneteenth's message promotes the continued freedom and economic prosperity of individuals from all races, colors, creeds, and cultures; and
- WHEREAS, Black Americans continue the fight 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; and
- WHEREAS, Festivities this year include a Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 14th at Esther Short Park where we celebrate the opportunity to stand united in freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the 19th day in June as:

“ Juneteenth 2025 ”

in the City of Vancouver and encourage our community to recognize the significance of this celebration in African American history and our nation and to celebrate those who fought for and continue to fight for equality.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 9th day of June 2025.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle

ANNE McENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR