



PROCLAMATION

Declaring June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in Beaufort

WHEREAS, June 19, or Juneteenth, sometimes referred to as National Freedom Day, Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;" and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln correctly believed slavery to be in violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and that its abolition represented a "new birth of freedom" for the United States; and

WHEREAS, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas, when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston and spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, the following year, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas and have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, on this anniversary each year, organizations and individuals throughout North Carolina and our nation celebrate African American heritage, history, freedom and culture with events and ceremonies that reflect the power of community, family, art and tradition in the face of oppression; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in Beaufort, North Carolina and across our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sharon Harker, Mayor of the Town of Beaufort, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as **JUNETEENTH DAY** in Beaufort, North Carolina and commend its observance to all citizens

Duly adopted this 15th day of May 2022.

Sharon Harker, Mayor