

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH AS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBERATION.

WHEREAS President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1st, 1863, declaring enslaved people in the Confederate States to be legally free. However, that proclamation could not be enforced in lands under Confederate control. On April 9th, 1865, Confederate forces surrendered, effectively ending the Civil War. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, the westernmost state of the Confederacy, bringing news of the president's order freeing enslaved people two-and-a-half years after it was first decreed. This day, marking the end of chattel slavery in the United States, has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS Oregon's Constitutional ban on both slavery as well as residence by free African Americans lay the foundation for generations of economic hardship, exclusion, and discrimination against Oregon's Black African American community; and

WHEREAS through other systems of oppression such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, exclusionary and destructive housing and transportation policies, denial and disruption of voting access, and mass incarceration, the plunder of Black bodies and Black wealth continued past slavery and persists to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, education of and opportunities available to Black African Americans; and

WHEREAS despite these obstacles, Black African Americans in Oregon have been and continue to be dynamic and vital community members and leaders within our state; and

WHEREAS Juneteenth has been celebrated in Oregon since 1945, when Clara Peoples moved to Portland from Oklahoma to work at the Kaiser Shipyards and introduced it to her co-workers; and

WHEREAS the City of Milwaukie, the State of Oregon, and the federal government now recognize Juneteenth as a legal holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Batey the Mayor of the City of Milwaukie, a municipal corporation in the County of Clackamas, in the State of Oregon, do hereby recognize and proclaim **Juneteenth, June 19th**, as an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of Black African American liberation and those who continue the work to realize that liberation.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have set my hand on this 4th day of June 2024.

Lisa M. Batey

Lisa Batey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Scott S. Stauffer

Scott Stauffer, City Recorder



Sources and References:

<https://www.juneteenthor.com>

<https://www.ohs.org/events/oregons-enigmatic-black-history.cfm>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth>