

## PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is recognized as the end of chattel slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Confederate forces surrendered, effectively ending the Civil War. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas bringing news of the president's order freeing enslaved people two-and-a-half years after it was first decreed. This day has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's Constitutional ban on both slavery and 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, and education of 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

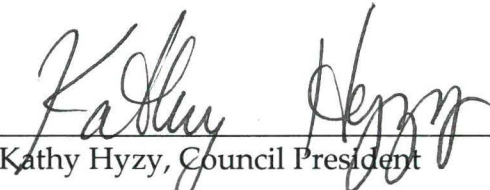
WHEREAS, the Oregon Legislature has unanimously voted to recognize Juneteenth as a legal state holiday beginning in 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Council 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 19<sup>th</sup>**, 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, we have set our hands on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2022.

  
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Mark Gamba, Mayor

  
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Kathy Hyzy, Council President

  
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Adam Khosroabadi, Councilor

  
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Lisa Batey, Councilor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Desi Nicodemus, Councilor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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>