

Proclamation

JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest national commemoration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth takes on more significance this year because it marks the 160th anniversary of the holiday and continues to be a day of reflection on the ongoing fight for equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a celebration of Black history, culture and resilience and provides a platform for community engagement and education; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island, Texas with approximately 2000 troops; the Civil War had ended the previous month and these Union forces were tasked with taking control of Texas and enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, that same day, on the balcony of Ashton Villa, General Granger read his General Order Number 3 which stated, “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor;” and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, but the slaves in Texas were unaware of it until being told by General Granger; reaction to the news ranged from jubilation to shock, and the freed slaves took to the streets to celebrate; and

WHEREAS, in the years that followed, June 19th was commemorated by the holiday of Juneteenth, combining the words June and nineteenth; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and on August 23, 2007, North Carolina approved Session Law 2007-450, “An Act Recognizing Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Carolina;” and

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth is not a North Carolina state holiday, on July 14, 2020, the Carrboro Town Council adopted a resolution designating Juneteenth as an official paid holiday for Town employees and urged state and federal legislators to sponsor legislation making Juneteenth an official state and federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the United States Congress approved the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, and President Joe Biden signed the bill the following day, making Juneteenth National Independence Day a federal holiday; and

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WHEREAS, the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration will be held on Thursday, June 19th from 4-8pm at Carrboro Town Commons and will include fellowship, music, speakers, vendors and amazing food; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Thursday, June 19, 2025, to be a date for the celebration of the Juneteenth National Independence Day in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to carry the spirit of Juneteenth with them all year long and learn more about the history of Juneteenth.

This the 3rd day of June, 2025.


Barbara M. Foushee

