

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
PROCLAMATION
JUNETEENTH**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the freedom of enslaved people in Confederate territory, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the life-altering news about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed by two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and enslaved African-Americans in Texas, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced the end of the Civil War and slavery with these words, "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 until now existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor;" and

WHEREAS, the date June 19th has a special meaning to many African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH," combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, while Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, it is often under-recognized and under-celebrated across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks this nation's second Independence Day and should be recognized with pride as a significant milestone in this country's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that we recognize the importance of Juneteenth, and take this occasion to celebrate the emancipation of African-Americans from slavery in the United States. We acknowledge the lasting, shameful legacy of slavery in the United States and call upon our residents to continue to work to eliminate the disparities of wealth, safety and quality of life that persist and continue to impact African-Americans in College Park and around the country.

SO PROCLAIMED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE , 2024.

Fazlul Kabir, Mayor
City of College Park