

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free;" and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the role played by the ancestors of Black Americans in this nation's continual quest for freedom for all of humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth honors the contribution of Black Americans in the building of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on a larger scale, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity, which are at the core of the American Dream; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington state legislature passed legislation in 2021 that makes Juneteenth a legal state holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 16, 2021, Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing June 19<sup>th</sup> as the 12<sup>th</sup> U.S. public legal holiday;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 19, 2022, as

### *Juneteenth*

in the state of Washington, and I urge all people in our state to become aware of the significance of this celebration in the heritage of our nation and state.

Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States; 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, hence forward and forever free”; 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, Texas, and spread the word that slavery had been abolished and they were “free”; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is currently the most popular day of commemorating the end of slavery in the United States (although there were other available options, including January 31, the date the 13th Amendment passed Congress in 1865; or December 6, the day the 13th Amendment was ratified that year); and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, one year after Major Granger’s announcement, the freed African American men and women in the state of Texas held the first official “Juneteenth” celebration, and Juneteenth celebrations have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, the state of Texas became the first state in our nation to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979;

WHEREAS, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 19209 on November 17, 2020, making Juneteenth an official holiday for King County employees, leading the State of Washington as the first local government to do so;

WHEREAS, 2022 will be the first year Juneteenth will be observed as an official state and federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and to celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in King County and across the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council and the King County Executive, proclaim June 19, 2022, as

## JUNETEENTH

in Martin Luther King, Jr. County, recognize its historic importance, and encourage all residents to join us in its commemoration.

DATED this nineteenth day of June, 2022.



Dow Constantine, County Executive



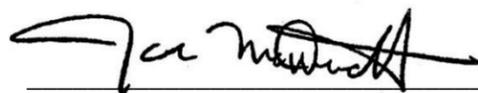
Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



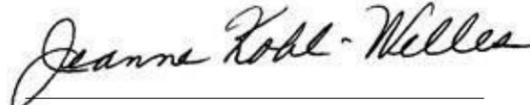
Joe McDermott, District Eight



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



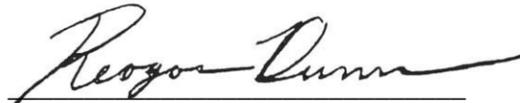
Girmay Zahilay, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation legally ended slavery in the Confederate states, but the low presence of Union troops and refusal of white slaveowners to comply with the proclamation prolonged slavery in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation and over a month after the end of the Civil War, a Union general arrived in Galveston, TX and issued General Order No. 3 securing the Union Army's authority over Texas and informing enslaved persons in the state that they were free by executive decree; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, one year after the Union general's announcement, the freed African American men and women in the state of Texas held the first "Juneteenth," or African American Independence Day celebration, and Juneteenth celebrations would later spread to all corners of the country including here in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, June 19<sup>th</sup> has been celebrated in smaller communities across the nation as Juneteenth and also is known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day; and

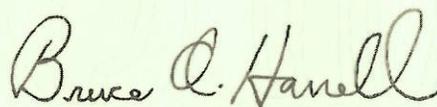
WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the late Ms. DeCharlene Williams, who founded the Central Area Chamber of Commerce and was one of the most visible advocates for Juneteenth in Seattle beginning nearly 40 years ago; and

WHEREAS, there are still many vestiges of slavery that persist and we as a country have a long way to go until we reach full economic and social equity, and put an end to anti-blackness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has officially established and recognizes Juneteenth as a legal holiday;

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2022 TO BE*

## JUNETEENTH DAY



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell  
City of Seattle

