



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** on June 19th, we celebrate the historical Juneteenth holiday, the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** we remember that on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army and his troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to inform enslaved African Americans, who had been held captive after the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, that they had been freed; and
- WHEREAS,** it had taken nearly two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation for the news to reach the enslaved people in Texas, and, for Black Americans, this marked just the beginning of their quest for democratic equality; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1866, Texans began celebrating June 19th as a day of freedom. In 1980, Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth an official state holiday. In 2021, legislation was passed to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and
- WHEREAS,** while Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Jubilee Day, is a reminder of delayed freedom for many Black Americans, it is also an opportunity to celebrate their freedom and African American history, culture, and achievements, and for everyone to reflect on how we can ensure the country continues to live up to its founding principles of liberty and justice for all; and
- WHEREAS,** the Juneteenth flag features a lone star in the center, a nod to Texas; a bursting outline around the star, inspired by a nova, represents a new beginning for Black Americans across the country; an arc represents a horizon full of promise and new opportunities; and the colors of red, white, and blue represent the flag of the United States to remind us that enslaved people and their descendants were and are Americans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Shannon Lukeman-Hiromasa, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Northglenn, Colorado, hereby proclaim June 19th, 2023 as a day of observance for:

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Northglenn and encourage all residents to carry Juneteenth forward as a tradition to celebrate the end of slavery in America and to recommit our efforts to our Nation's founding ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all Americans.

Dated, at Northglenn, Colorado this 12th day of June 2023.

SHANNON LUKEMAN-HIROMASA
Mayor Pro Tem

