

City of Westminster



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westminster issues proclamation recognizing Juneteenth

WESTMINSTER, Calif. - The Westminster City Council has issued a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States.

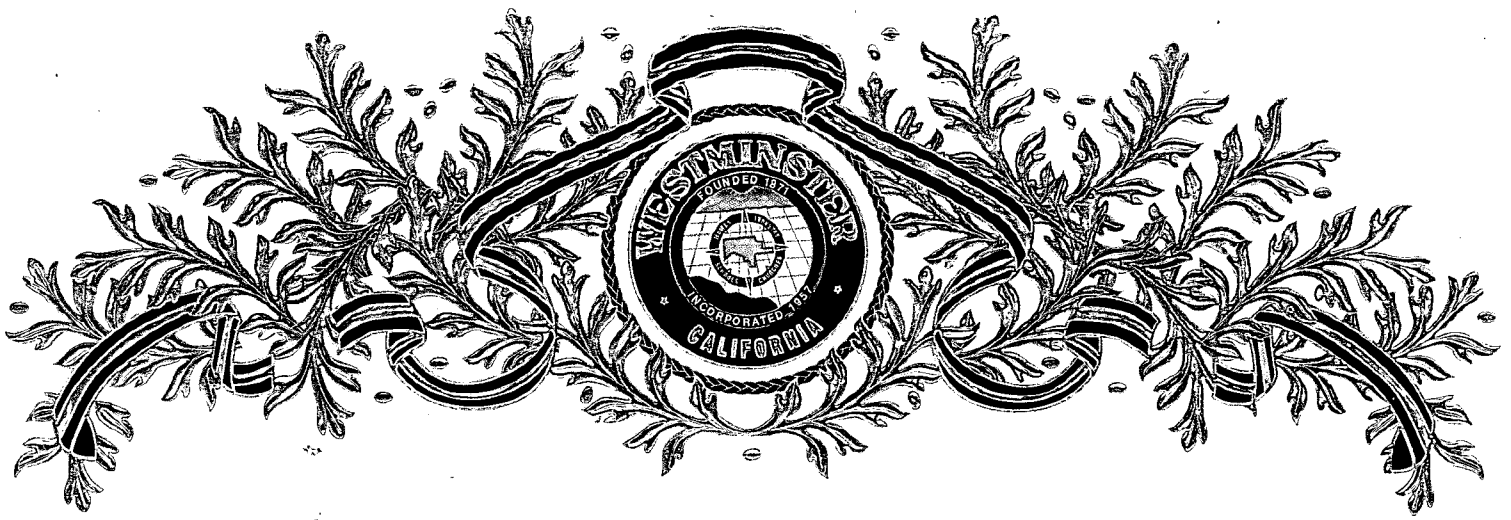
Observed annually on June 19, Juneteenth recognizes June 19, 1865 -- the day that Major General Gordon Granger and his Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end to the Civil War and slavery. While initially celebrated by Texans in 1866, Juneteenth is observed in 47 states, including California, and the District of Columbia.

“Westminster continues to support racial equality, and Juneteenth is an opportunity for us to continue the conversation about the impacts of social injustice and the need to progress,” said Mayor Tri Ta.

This is the second year Westminster has proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth.

The full text of the proclamation can be found on the city’s website [here](#).

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Proclamation

JUNETEENTH

JUNE 19, 2021

WHEREAS, our country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived on July 4, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence stating, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, at 2 p.m. on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;" and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery a Union war aim and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly four million slaves and hearing of the Proclamation, many slaves escaped to Union lines as army units moved south; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery, "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 right of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor"; and

WHEREAS, Texans began celebrating Juneteenth in 1866 with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances and historical cultural readings; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and

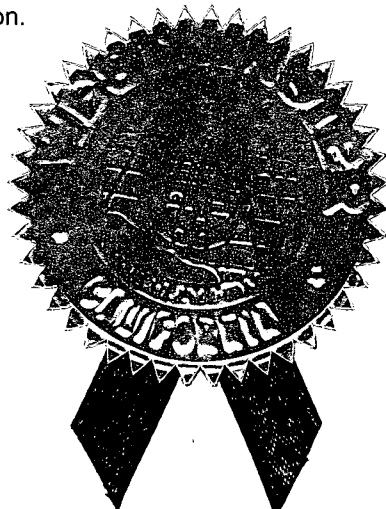
WHEREAS, Representative Al Edwards put forward a bill, H.B. 1016, in 1979, making Texas the first state to grant his emancipation celebration; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday, and since then, 45 other states and the District of Columbia have also declared it an official holiday; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westminster celebrates freedom, equality, and justice in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Tri Ta, Mayor of the City of Westminster, on behalf of Vice Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen, and Council Members Tai Do, Kimberly Ho, and Carlos Manzo, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as **JUNETEENTH** in the City of Westminster in commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and encourage all residents to learn and understand the significance of this celebration in African-American history and in the heritage of our nation.

DATE: June 15, 2021




Tri Ta, Mayor