



Proclamation

JUNETEENTH

June 19, 2023

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; and

WHEREAS, Texas 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, Chi Charlie Nguyen, Mayor of the City of Westminster, on behalf of Vice Mayor NamQuan Nguyen, and Council Members Amy Phan West, Carlos Manzo, and Kimberly Ho do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 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.

Signed and Dated this 14th day of June 2023 by the City Council.

Chi Charlie Nguyen, Mayor

NamQuan Nguyen, Vice Mayor, District 4

Amy Phan West, Council Member, District 1

Carlos Manzo, Council Member, District 2

Kimberly Ho, Council Member, District 3