

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declared enslaved people in states of rebellion free; and

WHEREAS, April 9, 1865, marks the unofficial end of the American Civil War, with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, though the formal declaration of the end of the war by President Andrew Johnson would not come until August 20, 1866; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were among the last to be informed that the Emancipation Proclamation was in effect and slavery had been abolished in states of rebellion, including Texas; and

WHEREAS, in 1866, freed people in Texas celebrated the anniversary of June 19th with church gatherings and worship; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the combination of the words June and Nineteenth; and

WHEREAS, it is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day and Cel-Liberation Day; and

WHEREAS, for the over 150 years since the end of the American Civil War, Juneteenth has been one of the oldest national celebrations of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a time to reflect and take stock of the progress made since the abolition of slavery as well as the progress unmade and not made; and

WHEREAS, this great American holiday remains largely unknown to most Americans and has not been made an official federal holiday despite repeated efforts in Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chapel Hill Town Council hereby declares June 19, 2020, as

JUNETEENTH

in the Town of Chapel Hill and urges all residents and employers to recognize the holiday and take the day to reflect and take action to advance freedom and equality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Chapel Hill encourages all to tune into the Town of Carrboro's website on Friday, June 19, 2020 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3CueQzTKRIj5v5rGrqf3AA> - for a video program commemorating the holiday, the reading of a resolution by the African American elected officials of Orange County and a presentation by Dr. Freddie Parker, a professor of history at North Carolina Central University.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE IN
THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.



