



**WHEREAS,** our country includes people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for true democracy; and

**WHEREAS,** our nation was conceived on July 4th, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: “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 that time, the enslaved people of this country were not extended the rights and privileges of American freedom; and

**WHEREAS,** effective January 1, 1863, United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, providing the legal framework toward the widespread abolition of slavery; and

**WHEREAS,** over the course of war, many slaves, upon hearing of the Proclamation, escaped to Union lines as the army units moved south; and

**WHEREAS,** on June 19, 1865 - two years after Lincoln’s Proclamation and two months after the end of the Civil War - U.S. Army General Gordon Granger delivered the Emancipation notice to the city of Galveston, Texas; and

**WHEREAS,** Black Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts and barbeques, prayer gatherings, musical performances and historical cultural readings - some communities purchased land dedicated specifically for Juneteenth celebrations; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried Juneteenth with them; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1979, freshman Representative Al Edwards brought forth House Bill 1016, which the 66<sup>th</sup> State Legislature passed, establishing “Emancipation Day in Texas” in honor of Juneteenth, first recognized June 19, 1980; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a state or ceremonial holiday, and there is much effort to establish it as a national holiday; and

**WHEREAS,** historic records indicate Juneteenth celebrations were held in McKinney, Texas, as early as 1902, in “The Run” and “Lewisville” communities, Finch Park, the former Rambo Park, and picnic grounds located at present-day Old Settler’s Park, and that tradition continues even now.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE FULLER, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19TH, 2021 AS**

## **JUNETEENTH**

**IN MCKINNEY, TEXAS, IN HONOR OF THAT SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN EVENT. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 15TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021.**

SIGNED:

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GEORGE C. FULLER, Mayor

ATTEST:

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EMPRESS DRANE, City Secretary