



WHEREAS, our country was founded July 4, 1776, holding “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, the vast majority of African peoples on American lands were still excluded from such rights when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 as part of the effort to end the Civil War. The news of Emancipation finally reached the city of Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, The last to learn of Emancipation, the formerly enslaved people in Texas named the day of June 19 as “Juneteenth” and celebrated with music, food, prayer, parades, and speeches with many of the traditions spanning the generations even until now; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1980, the State of Texas officially recognized “Emancipation Day in Texas” to honor Juneteenth, and on June 17, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act with an overwhelmingly affirmative vote of 415-14; and

WHEREAS, also known as Jubilee Day and Second Independence Day, the official Juneteenth holiday is Wednesday, June 19, and the City of McKinney will celebrate on Saturday, June 15 at Finch Park, where the occasion has been proudly and joyously commemorated many times over the past century plus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE FULLER, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2024 AS

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

IN MCKINNEY, TEXAS, ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS MEANINGFUL MOMENT IN HISTORY, EMBRACING EVERY STEP OF THE AMERICAN MARCH TOWARD FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

GEORGE C. FULLER, Mayor

ATTEST:

EMPRESS DRANE, City Secretary