



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 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, “Emancipation Day in Texas” became a Texas State holiday to honor Juneteenth, and on June 17, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act with an affirmative vote of 415-14; and

WHEREAS, also known as Jubilee Day and Second Independence Day, the official Juneteenth holiday is Thursday, June 19, and celebrated by the City of McKinney on Saturday, June 14 at Finch Park, where the occasion has been proudly and joyously commemorated many times over the past century plus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERÉ FELTUS, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR PRO TEM OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, ON BEHALF OF OUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2025 AS

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

IN MCKINNEY, TEXAS, ENCOURAGING ALL RESIDENTS TO EMBRACE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EMANCIPATION AND TO HONOR EVERY HISTORIC STEP OF THE AMERICAN MARCH TOWARD FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 14TH DAY OF JUNE, 2025.

GERÉ FELTUS
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

EMPRESS DRANE
City Secretary