

Proclamation


City of Edmonds • Office of the Mayor

PROCLAIMING JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE CITY OF EDMONDS

- WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which directed, "...all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, henceforward, and forever free"; and
- WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation did not instantly free enslaved peoples because it only applied to places under Confederate control and not to border states or rebel areas under Union control that enslaved people; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day on June 19, 1865, when enslaved Black and African Americans in Texas were told by Major General Gordon Granger that their 246 years of enslavement had ended; and
- WHEREAS, news of the end of enslaved peoples did not reach the frontier areas of the United States until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and
- WHEREAS, enslaving people was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of enslaving people in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth symbolizes for many Blacks and African Americans what the Fourth of July does for all Americans – liberty, freedom, and justice for all; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day for us to reflect on the suffering caused by enslavement, acknowledge the evils of hatred and discrimination, and commit to being allies of our Black and African American friends, family, and neighbors; and
- WHEREAS, Africans who were enslaved left a legacy of determination, strength, heroism, and hope, and Juneteenth is a time for Blacks and African Americans and their fellow Americans to celebrate and honor this legacy; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds recognizes the history of African American and Black people, including the obstacles placed before them through institutionalized racism, and values their heritage, culture, achievements, and contributions; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds commends organizations such as the Snohomish County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Communities of Color Coalition, the Lift Every Voice Legacy, Snohomish County Black Heritage Society, the City of Edmonds Diversity Commission, the Edmonds School District, and others for their continued efforts to secure equity, inclusion and equal rights in all facets of American life and ensure opportunity for all; and
- WHEREAS, in 2021 the Washington State Legislature and Governor established that starting in 2022 Juneteenth will be a legal state paid holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Edmonds City Council, do hereby recognize now and in the future, June 19 as Juneteenth Independence Day in the City of Edmonds.

Est. 1890


Mayor Mike Nelson ~ June 15, 2021