

PROCLAMATION

City of Monrovia

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, officially ending slavery, changing the status of more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of General Order Number 3: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer"; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," and "Freedom Day," is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth represents freedom, as well as how the emancipation was tragically delayed for enslaved people in the deepest reaches of the Confederacy; this is a painful chapter in American history that also serves as an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to combat all forms of modern-day slavery, human trafficking, and racial injustice as well as to continue to fight for freedom; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, we must stand in solidarity with those who are fighting for justice and human rights; and acknowledge that the struggle for equality continues; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2020, the Monrovia City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-58, declaring June 19 of each year as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Becky Shevlin, Mayor of the City of Monrovia, California, along with the entire City Council do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024 as

"Juneteenth National Freedom Day"

and encourage the community to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.

Dated this 18th Day of June, 2024

