

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State “shall be then and forever free; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, almost 2 ½ years later, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery. He further affirmed that all slaves were hereby free; and

WHEREAS, celebrations of Juneteenth began in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances and historical cultural readings; and

WHEREAS, as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday and since e then, 45 other states and the District of Columbia have also declared it an official holiday; and

WHEREAS, the original observances included prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals, and celebrants wore new clothes as a way of representing their newfound freedom. Within a few years, African Americans in other states were celebrating the day as well, making it an annual tradition; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Juneteenth was made a federal holiday. The day is also celebrated outside our country in recognition of those who endured the bondage of slavery and honor the culture and achievements of African Americans throughout our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JB Whitten, Mayor of the City of Crestview, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2022, as a Juneteenth in Crestview, Florida. I invite the citizens of our community to celebrate with us as we observe this historical day at the Old Spanish Trail Park.

Duly passed and adopted on this this 20th day of June 2022.



JB Whitten

Mayor JB Whitten
City of Crestview