



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order issued January 1st, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln immediately freed approximately five hundred thousand persons held as slaves from generational bondage within any state or designated part of a state, but still left approximately 3.5 million enslaved across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States, when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce the war had ended, freeing the enslaved; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has become the African-American addendum to our national Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, June 19th was quickly shortened to “Juneteenth” among celebrants; historically, these celebrations were a time to reassure each other, pray, and gather remaining family members; and

WHEREAS, “Emancipation Day” is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont, City of Bessemer City, City of Gastonia, and Elements of Empowerment, Inc., will host a virtual Juneteenth Celebration during the weekend of Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20, 2020 beginning with “Juneteenth Sunday” on Sunday, June 14, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia, acknowledge the historical significance of this celebration and we join the efforts of others to host this event for our communities.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 14th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk