



Proclamation

WHEREAS: President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring freedom to all enslaved persons in Confederate territories, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: more than two years would pass before the news reached some of the last enslaved persons when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to announce that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved persons in Texas were free by order of the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS: June 19 has since come to be known as "**Juneteenth**", combining the words June and Nineteenth, and is one of the oldest celebrations in America commemorating the ending of chattel slavery in America; and

WHEREAS: the first **Juneteenth** celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members and neighbors and today is a time of great significance where individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the country gather to celebrate African-American heritage, culture, freedom, and tradition; and

WHEREAS: this year's **Juneteenth** celebrations taking place in Gaston County include the City of Bessemer City on June 17, Belmont Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday June 18, City of Gastonia; Juneteenth Youth Summit Luncheon event at the Erwin Recreation Center on July 18; and the fourth annual Juneteenth Ebony Fest Celebration in the City of Gastonia on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at the Rotary Centennial Pavilion.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby declare **June 19, 2022** as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Gastonia, North Carolina and urge all citizens to join in celebrating a day so significant in the history and heritage of our nation and city.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 7th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk