

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** it was not until June 19, 1865, that Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger reached Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that all slaves were free; and
- WHEREAS,** June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans and all Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years, and symbolizes the African-American struggle for freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity, and reminds us how far we have come and how far we need to go; and
- WHEREAS,** on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and
- WHEREAS,** in June 2021, this annual celebration of freedom comes as the country grapples with its long-standing history of systemic racism amid nationwide protests against police brutality and racism.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Jeff Williams, Mayor of the City of Arlington, Texas, and on behalf of the Arlington City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as**

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Arlington, Texas and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in our history and in the heritage of our nation and city and in African-American heritage as well as honor the lives, sacrifices and contributions African-Americans have given to build the American fabric.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 19th day of June in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.



MAYOR