



The City of Woodinville PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Civil War ended with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, This news reached Texas when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with Union troops. It was on June 19, 1865, that he announced “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”; and

WHEREAS: Celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The state of Texas became the first state in our nation to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979 and the state of Washington officially declared Juneteenth a state holiday in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Gary Harris, Mayor of the City of Woodinville, Washington, on behalf of the Woodinville City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19 as:

Juneteenth

in the **CITY OF WOODINVILLE**, recognize its historic importance, and urge that all citizens and community organizations join in this observance.

Signed this 8th day of June 2021.

Mayor Gary Harris