

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### IN RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH 2020

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States and the emancipation of African American slaves throughout the Confederate South. 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 on April 9, 1865; and 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**, numerous local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen alongside older organizations with the common mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society; and reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and

**WHEREAS**, recent events in our nation have highlighted the racism and inequities still faced by Black Americans and people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, we renew our commitment to eradicate these injustices and work toward a nation where people “will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character” (Martin Luther King, Jr.).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Albany City Council recognizes June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth in the City of Albany and encourage citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.

Dated: June 15, 2020

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NICK PILCH, MAYOR