

PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BEAVERTON

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Freedom Day” or “Independence Day,” commemorates the events of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation had declared all enslaved people free nearly two and a half years earlier; and

WHEREAS, as one of the oldest American holidays, Juneteenth commemorates formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants and has historically been a time of prayer, reflection, and family reunion; and

WHEREAS, while July 4, 1776 represents the birth of the United States of America and commemorates the United States’ independence from British rule, it did not offer independence and freedom to enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth celebration is specific to the emancipation of African descendants, its message promotes the continued freedom and economic prosperity of individuals from all races, colors, creeds, and cultures and improves upon the nation’s promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, America must never forget or repeat its vivid and tragic events of African American history which expose the dehumanizing impact of racial violence - from chattel enslavement to convict leasing, from thousands of lynchings to racial massacres like Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921 and Rosewood, Florida in 1923, from segregation to voter disenfranchisement, from mass incarceration to wrongfully inflicted violence upon the innocent who fought for freedom as captured by media in Selma, Alabama at the Edmund Pettis Bridge; and

WHEREAS, historically Juneteenth observances have not always received acknowledgement and recognition though Juneteenth is a critical component of American history as it marks a turning point in the nation and a step towards equality; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, the Oregon Senate unanimously passed House Bill 2168 making Juneteenth an official holiday in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and resolve of Black and African Americans throughout our history and serves as an opportunity to celebrate the rich and numerous contributions of Black and African Americans; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 156th commemoration of Juneteenth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lacey Beaty, Mayor of the City of Beaverton, Oregon, do hereby recognize June 19, 2021 as:

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Beaverton and call this observance to the attention of all our community members.



Lacey Beaty, Mayor