



# *Proclamation*

## **Declaring June 19, Juneteenth in the City of Mount Rainier**

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African Americans what the fourth of July means for all Americans - Freedom. It serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of being enslaved; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is one of a number of "freedom day" celebrations commemorating the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and celebrates the notification of the last slaves in Galveston, Texas by General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. declared June 19, Juneteenth, a federal holiday in 2021; and the City of Mount Rainier first proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout our nation Juneteenth is celebrated annually as a historical memorial tribute to our country's African American Heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Mount Rainier is proud to join our nation in honoring Juneteenth in an effort to promote and enhance the unity and spiritual strength that brought African Americans out of being enslaved and sustained their dignity and prosperity to the present day; and

**WHEREAS**, Flying the Juneteenth Flag on June 19 symbolizes the City of Mount Rainier stand on inclusion, equality, and equity and its celebration of diversity and support for the civil rights of the African American Community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Celina R. Benitez, Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier, do hereby proclaim that:

- (1) June 19, is declared Juneteenth in the City of Mount Rainier; and
- (2) The City of Mount Rainier esteems the integral role of the African American community in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and
- (3) The City of Mount Rainier urges residents to participate in appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contribution, and culture of the African American Community.

**Mayor Celina R. Benitez  
City of Mount Rainier**

