



*"The Peak of Good Living"*

TOWN OF APEX  
NORTH CAROLINA

## *Proclamation*

**Juneteenth 2023**

*from the Office of the Mayor*

WHEREAS, July 4, 1776, is recognized as the day the United States gained its freedom from the British Empire. On this date, and for 89 more years, slavery, the antithesis of freedom, remained present in many parts of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, officially ascribing the Civil War as a war for the freedom of enslaved African-Americans; and,

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger informed slaves in Galveston, Texas that they were free, and that the Civil War was over. This date, Juneteenth, is recognized as the end of slavery in the United States, and the day African-Americans gained their freedom; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a nationwide celebration of the freeing of slaves and a day for communities to come together to celebrate African-American heritage and culture, as well as an annual reminder of the racism and oppression that has marred the history of our nation; and,

WHEREAS, Although slavery in the United States is in the past, civil rights and equality issues for African-Americans still persist and there remain economic, institutional, and social barriers for Black and Brown people in our community, state, and country; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Apex is committed to bolstering efforts necessary to alleviate racial injustices in our society, and provide education and awareness, so we continue to move farther and farther away from the throes of oppression.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim, June 19, 2023, Juneteenth in the Town of Apex, and urge residents to join me in honoring those who fought for the freedom of the African-American community, and in supporting those who continue to fight to expand the spirit of freedom enshrined in Juneteenth.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex,  
North Carolina, to be affixed this the 23rd day of May 2023

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor