



## TOWN OF BLUFFTON

### Juneteenth Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which declared the enslaved peoples in any State or designated part of a State to be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation paved the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, federal orders were read in Galveston, Texas reaching the authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwestern United States who had not yet received word of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19th has since become known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, a holiday that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in June 1865, 901 days after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bluffton Juneteenth Celebration is sponsored and hosted annually by the Bluffton MLK Observance Committee with the 8th Annual Juneteenth Celebration, with the *theme: "Honoring the past, celebrating the progress, building on the promise of freedom for all."*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bluffton is committed to pursuing the ideals of Justice, Equity and Peace. The Town of Bluffton recognizes Juneteenth as an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and to celebrate African American freedom while reflecting on the continuous significant contributions of African Americans to the Bluffton Community, the state of South Carolina, and across our Nation; and

**WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the 160th anniversary of the emancipation of all people who were enslaved in the United States of America I, Mayor Lisa Sulka, along with Bluffton Town Council, do hereby declare **June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth Day** in the Town of Bluffton, designating it as a Town of Bluffton holiday.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor