



## **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 and as the official day of recognition for Juneteenth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bluffton Juneteenth Celebration is sponsored and hosted annually by the Bluffton MLK Observance Committee with the 7th celebration themed "Building Equity: A Community's Promise;" and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Bluffton recognizes Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in Bluffton, South Carolina, and across our Nation.

**WHEREAS**, the elected leaders of the Town of Bluffton and Town Staff are committed to pursuing the ideals of Justice, Equity and Peace among all of our residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Lisa Sulka, along with the Town Council of the Town of Bluffton, do hereby declare June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth Day in the Town of Bluffton, designating it as a Town of Bluffton holiday, and hereby encourage lawmakers at all federal, state and local levels of government to do the same.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 8th day of June, 2021.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor