



# ***PROCLAMATION***

## ***Office of the Mayor***

### ***Town of Eatonville, Florida***

**WHEREAS**, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be forever free;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation is a symbol of human freedom that led to the expansion of freedom in America, shifting the motive of the Civil War and leading to an end sixteen months later; and

**WHEREAS**, at the end of the Civil War, on May 10, 1865, Union Brigadier General Edward M. McCook arrived in Tallahassee, Florida to receive the surrender of Florida's Confederate troops on May 10<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 1865, General McCook declared the Emancipation Proclamation in effect in Florida effectively ending slavery in the state, and for this reason, Emancipation Day is traditionally celebrated on May 20 in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, with the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln led the charge to reunite the 34 states of our great nation to ensure liberty and justice for all; and

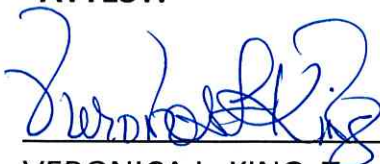
**WHEREAS**, Emancipation Day is a time to honor the contributions African Americans made, the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and the freedoms we have in Florida and across our great nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angie Gardner**, Mayor of the historic Town of Eatonville, Florida, do hereby declare May 20, 2023, as

## ***Emancipation Day In Florida***

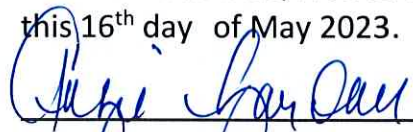
in the Town of Eatonville, Florida, urging The Eatonville Community to observe and to become more aware of the significance of this moment in African American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.

**ATTEST:**

  
VERONICA L. KING, Town Clerk



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Eatonville, Florida to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

  
ANGIE GARDNER, Mayor