



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Texas finally received word of their freedom more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, marking a transformative moment in our nation's journey toward justice; and

WHEREAS, this date represents the culmination of a long and painful struggle endured by millions of enslaved people throughout American history, honoring their resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering hope in the face of profound injustice; and

WHEREAS, for over 150 years, Juneteenth has been celebrated as a day of liberation, resilience, and cultural pride within the Black community, and is now rightfully recognized as a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the continued impacts of slavery on the Black and African American community today, the continued threat of racist violence, and the continued fight against systemic racism in pursuit of liberation, reparations, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jared Polis formally acknowledged the historical significance of this day by signing legislation on May 2, 2022, establishing Juneteenth as Colorado's eleventh state holiday, affirming our state's commitment to honoring this pivotal moment in American history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins remains steadfastly committed to advancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in all aspects of our community life, recognizing that the promise of freedom requires ongoing dedication to creating a city where all people can thrive; and

WHEREAS, our Fort Collins community will gather at Foothills Mall on June 20-21, 2025, to honor this significant day through celebration, remembrance, and community connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025, as

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

and invite all residents to come together in celebration, reflection, and solidarity as we honor the profound significance of this day and the enduring spirit of freedom it represents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of June, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk