



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, it took almost two-and-a-half years for enslaved African Americans in Texas to be informed of their liberation by the Union Army, who did not enforce their emancipation until June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, that day became known as Juneteenth Independence Day and has been celebrated by the Black and African American community for over 150 years, and is now commemorated nationally as the day when enslaved Black and African Americans were freed; and

WHEREAS, not all enslaved people on American soil were liberated until the enactment of the Thirteenth Amendment; 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, the Fort Collins Equity Indicators Report highlights the impacts of discrimination against the local Black and African American community in outcomes connected to criminal justice, safety, economic opportunity, health, education, and housing, and the City commits to action in addressing each of these inequities through truth-telling, reconciliation, and systemic change; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jared Polis signed a bill Monday, May 2, 2022, that makes Juneteenth Colorado's eleventh state holiday and the City declared Juneteenth an official city holiday for the first time in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the first community-organized Juneteenth celebration in the City of Fort Collins will take place at Foothills Mall the weekend of June 16-18, 2023. The community will celebrate Juneteenth in culturally significant ways that promote remembrance and advocate for racial progress; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

and further commit to addressing inequitable outcomes that persist for Black and African American community members and encourage the community to join in celebration and solidarity as we recognize the significance of Juneteenth and the continued struggle for liberation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 6th day of June, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Chief Deputy City Clerk