

JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and a half years, to June 19th, 1865, in reaching authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of African American slaves in the United States and continues to grow within communities throughout the country, including Mesa County; and

WHEREAS, there are organizations in the Grand Valley, such as Black Citizens and Friends, promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging equity and respect for all people and cultures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fruita is an inclusive community that encourages a diversity of cultural opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Black Citizens and Friends is hosting a Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19th, 2021 at Lincoln Park from 4-7pm,

THEREFORE, We, the Fruita City Council, declare June 19th, 2021 as Juneteenth Day in the City of Fruita, Colorado, acknowledging its significance and encouraging our community to join in this celebration of African American history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Fruita this 15th day of June, 2021

Joel Kincaid
Mayor, City of Fruita