

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of African-American slaves, and is so named for the June 19, 1866 adoption of the Black Independence Day in Galveston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates America's commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 47 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, in the GROW Grand Rapids 2040 Comprehensive Plan, a comprehensive system of community values and guiding principles were identified describing what is right, good and desirable and provides a foundation for making Grand Rapids a positive place to live for ALL people.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota, recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our collective histories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto subscribed my name and the seal of the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, this 10th day of June, Two thousand twenty-four.

Tasha Connelly, Mayor
City of Grand Rapids