

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS  
PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger and some 2,000 Union troops reached Galveston Bay, Texas and informed more than 150,000 enslaved black people of their freedom by executive decree, this day became known by the newly freed people in Texas as “Juneteenth”. Juneteenth marks the United States second independence day.

**WHEREAS**, it has taken decades for many Americans to recognize Juneteenth it has long been celebrated by the African American community. Most Americans assumed the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 legally freed all slaves. The reality was the proclamation wasn’t being implemented in places still under Confederate control. In 1862 the Union Army captured New Orleans and slave owners moved their slaves to the westernmost Confederate state of Texas. Those still in bondage were not free until June 19, 1865 – almost two and a half years past the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraged by advocates and the Congressional Black Caucus, the United States Congress swiftly passed the **Juneteenth National Independence Day Act** on June 16, 2021 and was signed by President Joseph Biden on June 17, 2021 making Juneteenth the 11<sup>th</sup> holiday recognized by the federal government. The holiday is also called “Freedom Day”, “Juneteenth Independence Day”, “Jubilee Day”, Black Independence Day” or “Emancipation Day”.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARTHUR W. BRYANT**, Mayor of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, on behalf of the City Council, and all citizens of Grosse Pointe Woods, proclaim our honor in commemorating on this **JUNE 19, JUNETEENTH**. Our humble community celebrates the power and resilience of Black Americans and in the words of President Biden, “recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice.”



*Arthur W. Bryant*  
Mayor Arthur W. Bryant  
June 16, 2025