



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the end of the Civil War began with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865 and ended with the final terms of surrender of the last Confederate General on June 2, 1865; and

WHEREAS, this news reached Texas when Union Major-General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with his troops. It was on June 19, 1865, that he announced: “the people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”; and

WHEREAS, celebration of the end of slavery reaching the furthest Union state, which became known as Juneteenth, is one of the oldest public celebrations of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations spread across many southern states and more with the movement of freed Texas slaves as they exercised their newfound freedoms in search of family and new lives; and

WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth celebrations brought friends and families together, often on emancipated land, the first to be owned by former enslaved people, and included inspirational speakers, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, food and stories from former enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the complete emancipation of Confederate slaves and June 19th was declared Emancipation Day in Texas in 1980; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park do hereby proclaim June 19 as a day to celebrate Juneteenth 2024 in the City of Lake Forest Park.

Signed this 13th day of June, 2024.

Tom French, Mayor