



## JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States, commemorating the emancipation of those enslaved in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the celebrated Emancipation Proclamation, warning the rebellious Confederate States that he would declare their slaves “forever free” if those states did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863. Enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred only in Confederate States that were under Union Army control; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the end of the Civil War, on January 31, 1865, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and its territories. Texas, as a part of the Confederacy, was resistant to the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 18, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. Spontaneous celebrations erupted throughout the country when African Americans learned of their freedom, and the following day, June 19th, became known as “Juneteenth”; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing, and it is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and for planning the future.

**THEREFORE**, I do hereby proclaim June 19 as *Juneteenth* annually and call upon the citizens of Pineville to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how they have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Pineville to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

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Mayor David Phillips