



CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONORA

PROCLAIMS JUNE 19, 2023 AS JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

"History is about what we were. Commemoration is who we strive to be." — Admiral Michelle Howard (ret.),
Department of Defense Naming Commission

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creators with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." — Declaration of Independence, United States of America

WHEREAS, nearly nine decades after our Nation's founding, and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation — enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage; and

WHEREAS, as those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and this tradition that we honor today; and

WHEREAS, in its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans, and the City of Sonora is proud to celebrate it as a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day in which we remember the terrible toll of slavery on our country. But it is also a day that also reminds us of our country's incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Sonora celebrates the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that has brought us to this time of progress and possibility. That work has been led throughout our history by abolitionists and educators, civil rights advocates and lawyers, courageous activists and trade unionists, public officials, and everyday Americans who have helped make real all the ideals of our founding documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Sonora is committed to building a city that brings everyone along and delivers our Nation's founding promise to Americans of every color and ethnicity. The City of Sonora calls on residents to treat their neighbors with kindness, empathy, trust, and respect so that we may live and thrive together in a community of acceptance and peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Sonora declares June 19, 2023, as *"Juneteenth National Independence Day"* in Sonora, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 5th day of June of the year two thousand and twenty-three.

Signed _____

Mark Plummer, Mayor

Attest _____

Tracy Skelly, City Clerk

