



**CITY OF SWEENEY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Freedom is the foundation that holds up a strong state and nation. Without freedom, we lose access to choice and knowledge, which are fundamental to the forward thinking that builds goals and dreams into a successful life.

On January 1, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official and the slaves that were held in bondage and oppressed were now proclaimed free men, women, and children. However, this news did not reach the great State of Texas until June 19, 1865, over two years later when General Gordon Granger read the order in Galveston that day.

Locally in September, between the shade of two bois d'arc trees that grew before the home of plantation owner, John B. Sweeny, Jr, masters and slaves of fourteen plantations in Brazoria County assembled in 1865 to be given the news of that new freedom. In 2011 one of the trees that died, was commissioned for a sculpture, known as "The Freedmen Tree," and is on display at the Brazoria Historical Museum.

Juneteenth marks not only the end of slavery within Texas, but our first steps toward providing freedom for all, which we still strive to do each and every day.

I encourage all residents of our great City of Sweeny to come together in celebration of Juneteenth, the freedom this holiday represents and the history and culture of the African-American community it presents.

Therefore, I, Jeff Farley, Mayor of Sweeny Texas, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, to be

## **Juneteenth Day**

in Sweeny and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 16th day of May 2023.

Mayor