

Proclamation

WHEREAS, our country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”. The Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly four million slaves in states that had seceded from the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, nearly nine decades after our Nation’s founding, and more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free; and

WHEREAS, celebration of Juneteenth began June 19, 1866, with parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances and historical cultural readings. As freed families emigrated away from Texas, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them, commemorating Juneteenth with celebrations across the country; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of profound significance. Slavery has left a catastrophic and unrelenting legacy of trauma for generations of African Americans. Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of slavery and a day that reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose, resolve, and unity; and

WHEREAS, members of the Fred U. Harris Lodge #70 have hosted a community-wide BBQ annually in celebration of Juneteenth for more than 40 years, drawing over 500 participants. With the formal recognition of Juneteenth as a federal, state and City holiday, members of the Lodge have invited the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater to join in the celebration of Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, people in the Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater area are invited to join the Fred U. Harris Lodge #70 on Saturday, June 17th, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) in Lacey to celebrate this African American cultural tradition with music, BBQ, and activities in a community-wide celebration of Juneteenth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Debbie Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim

Juneteenth
June 19, 2023

and I call on the people of Tumwater to join together on Juneteenth, to reflect on the past, to commit together to continue to eradicate systemic racism, to look to the future, and to work each day to lift each other up for collective prosperity and liberty.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 6th day of June in the year, two thousand twenty-three.



Debbie Sullivan
Debbie Sullivan
Mayor