Proclamation

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was formally issued on January 1, 1863, declaring that enslaved Africans in the Confederate States of America were to be freed; and

WHEREAS, news of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation was not immediately delivered to the most remote areas of the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, news of the abolition of the enslavement of Africans was not delivered to all the Confederate States until after the conclusion of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, all of the Confederate States received news of the end of enslavement of African people on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, June 19th – JUNETEENTH a linguistic blend of the words June and nineteenth, was adopted to commemorate this historical and pivotal date in American history; and

WHEEREAS, beginning on January 1, 1980, several states and municipal governments in the United States have declared June 19th – JUNETEENTH a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, June 19th – JUNETEENTH, is celebrated nationally and internationally to recognize the end of the enslavement of Africans in the United States and to celebrate the culture and achievements of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, today, millions of Americans of all races, creeds, religious and ethnic backgrounds celebrate Juneteenth, which not only celebrates freedom, but also acknowledges the achievements of African Americans; and as celebrations continue to spread, we can all be reminded of the oft-repeated maxim, "Until all are free, none are free," that highlights the manner of the end of slavery in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor of the City of Westlake, Florida, in the State of Florida on behalf of the City of Westlake, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2023, in the City of Westlake as

"JUNETEENTH INDEPENENCE DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Westlake, Florida to be affixed this 6^h day of June 2023.

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JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Zoie P. Burgess, CMC