



P R O C L A M A T I O N

Recognizing Juneteenth

Whereas, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared all persons held as slaves within the Confederate territory free; and

Whereas, the Emancipation Proclamation changed the legal status of more than 3.5 million enslaved and helped pave the way for the passage of the 13th Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger led troops into Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the insidious institution of slavery, and thousands of enslaved people in Texas – among the last to learn of their liberation – tasted hard-won freedom for the first time; and

Whereas, Texans began celebrating Juneteenth in 1866 with community-centric events including parades, historical and cultural readings, the purchase of land including Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas, and later used the occasion as a time to educate and register individuals to vote; and

Whereas, over the next several decades, Black Americans who journeyed out of the South seeking better lives brought with them the history of Juneteenth and the celebrations around this holiday; and

Whereas, on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday, making Texas the first state to celebrate this holiday, and since then, the federal government, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia have also commemorated or recognized this day; and

Whereas, the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans was not the end of our nation's work to deliver on the promise of equality – it was only the beginning; and

Whereas, on Juneteenth, we recommit to our shared work to ensure racial justice, equity, and equality in America, and we commemorate the centuries of struggle and progress led by abolitionists, educators, advocates, public officials, and everyday Americans who have brought our nation closer to fulfilling its promise of absolute equality.

Now therefore, I, Peter Stevenson, Mayor of the City of Burlingame, do hereby recognize June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Burlingame to be affixed this 16th day of June, 2025.

Peter Stevenson, Mayor