

PROCLAMATION

Juneteenth 2024

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the remaining enslaved Blacks in Texas were now free nearly two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation and two months after the end of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, with those words, our country changed, and we have continued to change, striving always to make it right and to make it better for all; and

WHEREAS, while these words created a legal means to continue the fight for equality, equality remained a distant reality; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Juneteenth is about the journey of Black Americans, from a horrific period of enslavement to blessed freedom; and

WHEREAS, today we celebrate incremental progress with this resolution recognizing and celebrating the moment when emancipation reached the last enslaved part of the confederacy in Texas, and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates pride, resilience and determination that will always be of historical and spiritual significance; and

WHEREAS, as we look back on over 150 years of progress, we honor those who have come before us, we remember those who lost their lives, and we remember those who collectively paved the road to freedom; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to this journey and we acknowledge the many roles and contributions of the Black spirit to our society; and

WHEREAS, we embrace the past and we embrace the future, something that only occurs with unity and respect; and


WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government celebrates Juneteenth and celebrates the freedom of our Black brothers and sisters.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED Joliet Township Government hereby recognizes and designates the 19th of June as Juneteenth Day.

ADOPTED this 11th day of June 2024.

ATTEST:


Alicia Morales, Township Clerk


Angel Contreras, Township Supervisor