



Proclamation



JUNETEENTH 2020

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island, Texas with approximately 2000 troops; the Civil War had ended the previous month and these Union forces were tasked with taking control of Texas and enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, that same day, on the balcony of Ashton Villa, General Granger read his General Order Number 3 which stated, *“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves;”* and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, but the slaves in Texas were unaware of it until being told by General Granger; reaction to the news ranged from shock to jubilation, and the freed slaves took to the streets to celebrate; and

WHEREAS, in the years that followed, June 19th was commemorated by the holiday of Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and many states followed; on August 23, 2007, North Carolina approved Session Law 2007-450, “An Act Recognizing Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Carolina;” and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Juneteenth will be observed at a time when people throughout the United States are engaged in civic actions to address the inequities with which our nation struggles; recent events have clearly illustrated the injustices faced by people of color, the violence that is unduly inflicted, and the stark discrepancies that continue to characterize our society; and

WHEREAS, the “absolute equality of rights” which General Granger spoke of on June 19, 1865 is still an unmet aspiration in the United States; on June 19, 2020, let us honor our history through an honest reflection on our nation’s past, and redouble our efforts to achieve the goals for which so many have struggled for so long.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the observance and commemoration of **Juneteenth** on June 19, 2020 in Carrboro. I encourage residents to learn about and recognize this historic occasion, and to also acknowledge the on-going challenges in our country related to race.

This, the 16th day of June, 2020



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor