



Proclamation



JUNETEENTH 2021

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 the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor;”* 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 jubilation to shock, 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, combining the words June and nineteenth; and

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

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth is not a federal holiday or a North Carolina state holiday, on July 14, 2020, the Carrboro Town Council voted to recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday for employees; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of local organizations, including the Town of Carrboro, invites the community to be a part of the first annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration on June 18-19; a schedule of virtual and in-person events can be found on the Town webpage.

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, 2021 in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage residents of Carrboro to learn about and celebrate this historic occasion, and to participate in the Juneteenth Celebration this week-end.

This, the 15th day of June, 2021.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor