

# Proclamation

## JUNETEENTH

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of Major General Gordon Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance; and

**WHEREAS**, one of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, **General Order Number 3** which began most significantly with: *"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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."* and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, combines the words June and Nineteenth and commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement of abolition of slavery throughout the former Confederate States of America and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom and achievement, with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman of the Town of Portland Connecticut, hereby proclaim June 19, 2024 as "**Juneteenth Day**" in the Town of Portland, Connecticut and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and in the heritage of our nation, State of Connecticut and Town of Portland.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I do hereby set my hand, and cause the seal of Portland to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year two thousand and twenty-four.

By,

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Ryan J. Curley  
First Selectman  
Town of Portland, Connecticut

**Portland Board of Selectmen:**

John H. Dillon  
Michael S. Hernandez  
Robert W. Hetrick Jr.  
Shaun P. Manning  
Michael A. Pelton  
James K. Tripp