

# PROCLAMATION



## Office of the Mayor

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, slaves in Texas first heard the news of their freedom, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order abolishing slavery through the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

**WHEREAS**, when these slaves heard the news, they sang, danced, and prayed with much rejoicing and jubilation that their life-long prayers and those of their ancestors had finally been answered; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the founders of our community were abolitionists who fought against the institution of slavery, and former slaves settled in Appleton to build their lives as free people; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton recognizes that diversity is its strength, and honors African, African American, Black, people of African descent, and all people who have an interest in Black issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual collaborative celebratory event led by African Heritage, Inc. and supported with sponsorship of numerous businesses and organizations promoting educational and cultural exchanges for the area residents will be held in Jones Park on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD**, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

## Juneteenth Celebration Day

in Appleton and encourage all citizens to join in the commemoration and celebration of this historic day.



Signed and sealed this 15 day of June 2021.

**JACOB A. WOODFORD**  
MAYOR OF APPLETON