

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 the African, African American, Black, people of African descent, and all people who have an interest in Black issues; and

WHEREAS, the 10th annual collaborative celebratory event led by African Heritage, Inc. and supported through resources provided by the City of Appleton with sponsorship of numerous businesses and organizations promoting educational and cultural exchanges for the residents of Appleton and the Fox Cities has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2020 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 19th day of June 2020.

JACOB A. WOODFORD
MAYOR OF APPLETON