

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0809

Recognizing Wednesday, June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth, Freedom Day, in Denver

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865 — over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation — Major General Gordon Granger informed the residents of Galveston, Texas, that the United States Civil War had ended and that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people of which shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."; and

WHEREAS, On June 19 of every year, we, the people, come together as a community and commemorate Juneteenth as a celebration of freedom and community; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Black community has a long and storied history of celebrating Juneteenth, with the first celebration happening in 1966 in Denver's historic Five Points neighborhood, this celebration now includes an annual parade and music festival that draws thousands of Denverites from across the City to join our community and celebrate; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of Denver recognized Juneteenth as an official city holiday starting in 2023 after City Council gave final approval of an amendment to the Denver Revised Municipal Code to add a 12th paid holiday for the City's career service employees in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Denver is committed to racial and social justice, and Juneteenth provides just one of many opportunities for Denverites to increase their knowledge of African American history while providing an opportunity to celebrate the significant accomplishments made by African Americans in this city and country; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver will continue to take necessary and intentional strides toward establishing a city which prioritizes and promotes true racial and social equity and equality.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The City Council of Denver recognizes Wednesday, June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth, Freedom Day, in Denver.

Section 2. The City Council of Denver acknowledges and condemns the history of slavery in the United States and recognizes that this legacy continues to impact Black Americans negatively in equal access to housing, equal access to employment, equal access to health care, and equal access to vote.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Norman Harris and the Denver Juneteenth Committee, and to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 17, 2024

PRESIDENT

