Office of the Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Alaska

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature, in 2001, though official action, commemorates the third Saturday in June each year as Juneteenth to celebrate the abolition of slavery; and,

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough jointly celebrates Juneteenth on the third Saturday in June, which is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this commemoration dates to June 19, 1865 when Union Soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the civil war had ended and that all slaves were now free; and

WHEREAS, each year on the anniversary of the Galveston announcement, cities across the nation honor the freeing of the last slaves and celebrate African American heritage through celebrations, family gatherings, parades, historical reenactments, African American heritage exhibits, traditional musical performances, or readings by African American writers; and

WHEREAS, people from all races, nationalities, and religions join on this day to acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. It is a time for rejoicing, and for assessment, self-improvement, and planning; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Day is also an opportunity for all of us to join together to promote the values of respect, tolerance, and acceptance in our communities, as well as reaffirm our commitment to upholding the inalienable rights outlined in our nation’s constitution – the rights of liberty, dignity, and equality for all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bryce Ward, Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough by the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim:

June 19, 2020
As
Juneteenth Day

in the Borough and encourage all residents to reflect on the principles of freedom and equality which our nation and state are built upon and how we live these principles every day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 19th day of June 2020.

Bryce Ward, Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough

Attest:
April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk