Office of the Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Alaska

Proclamation

Whereas, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 1/2 years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863:

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free:

Whereas, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as ‘Juneteenth Independence Day’, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations:

Whereas, African Americans from the Southwest, for nearly 150 years, have continued the tradition of observing ‘Juneteenth Independence Day’:

Whereas, ‘Juneteenth Independence Day’ celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures:

Whereas, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and their descendants remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race:

Whereas, slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in January 1865:

Whereas, Frederick Douglass, born in the State of Maryland in 1818, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the United States’ most influential advocates for abolitionism and the equality of all people:

Whereas, Frederick Douglass was recognized for his accomplishments with a statue that was unveiled during a ceremony on June 19, 2013, in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol:

Whereas, 2022 marks the 58th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law on July 2, 1964, providing equal protections for African-Americans, including former slaves and their descendants; and on June 17, 2021 President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world:

June 19, 2022
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, we have hereunto set our hands this 19th day of June 2022.

Bryce Ward, Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough

Joy Matherly, Mayor
City of Fairbanks

Michael Welch, Mayor
City of North Pole

Attest:

April Trickey, MMC
Borough Clerk