



Proclamation

WHEREAS: President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring freedom to all enslaved persons in Confederate territories, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: more than two years would pass before the news reached some of the last enslaved persons when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to announce that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved persons in Texas were free by order of the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS: June 19 has since come to be known as “**Juneteenth**”, combining the words June and Nineteenth, and is one of the oldest celebrations in America commemorating the ending of chattel slavery in America; and

WHEREAS: the first **Juneteenth** celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members and neighbors and today is a time of great significance where individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the country gather to celebrate African-American heritage, culture, freedom, and tradition; and

WHEREAS: this year’s **Juneteenth** celebration taking place in the City of Gastonia is the sixth annual Juneteenth EbonyFest Celebration taking place on Saturday June 15 – which includes a Community Wellness Fair at Highland Health Center, a Parade and Festival Celebration ending with Fireworks on June 19, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Richard Franks, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby declare **June 19, 2024** as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Gastonia, North Carolina and urge all citizens to join in celebrating a day so significant in the history and heritage of our nation and city.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 21st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk