



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Juneteenth marks a pivotal milestone in American history as the oldest nationally recognized observance commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and
- Whereas:** on June 19, 1865 - more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - the last remaining enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free; and
- Whereas:** the celebration of Juneteenth honors the resilience, perseverance and contributions of Black Americans, while remembering the millions of Africans who perished during the transatlantic slave trade and the countless others who endured generations of enslavement in the United States; and
- Whereas:** Juneteenth provides an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, recognize the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice, and deepen our understanding of the experiences and contributions of Black Americans; and
- Whereas:** the City of Bellevue honors the Black members of our community whose leadership, achievements, culture and service contribute to the strength, vibrancy and success of our city, and recognizes the importance of ensuring that African American history is fully acknowledged as American history; and
- Whereas:** the Juneteenth Flag will be raised beneath the United States Flag on the evening of June 18, 2026, and will fly at City Hall through the morning of June 22, 2026, as a visible tribute to the history, resilience and enduring contributions of Black Americans.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2026, as:**

Juneteenth

in Bellevue, Washington, and encourage all residents to reflect on its significance and join in our shared commitment to building a community where all people are treated with dignity, respect and opportunity.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue