



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Juneteenth marks a pivotal milestone in American history as the oldest nationally recognized observance of the emancipation of Black Americans following the Civil War; 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 memory of 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: the legacies of slavery and systemic racism continue to shape the social, political and economic realities faced by Black Americans today; and

Whereas: the City of Bellevue honors the Black members of our community who contribute to the richness, resilience and vibrancy of our city, and recognizes the ongoing efforts to ensure 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, 2025, and will fly at City Hall through the morning of June 23, 2025, as a visible tribute to the resilience, history and enduring contributions of Black Americans.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2025**, as

Juneteenth

in Bellevue, Washington, and encourage all residents to reflect on its significance and join in our shared commitment to equity, inclusion and justice for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue