



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Whereas, the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 declared slaves in confederate territory free, and paved the way for the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States; and

Whereas: Whereas, many slave owners continued to hold their slaves captive until June 19, 1865, when U.S. Army Major-Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced that the Civil War was over and all slaves were freed; and

Whereas: Whereas, Juneteenth celebrates that day in Texas and the recognized and official abolishment of slavery in the United States. We must never forget that shameful period in our country's history, when men, women and children were legally considered unequal and could be the property of another person; and

Whereas: Whereas, the legacy of slavery continues in our social, political and economic fabric today; and

Whereas: Whereas, we honor Juneteenth to celebrate freedom for the African American community and to confirm, through reflection and action, our commitment to equity and justice as essential components of a thriving community.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

Juneteenth

in Bellevue, recognizing its historical importance and calling on our community to join in listening, reflecting and acting so that we can support racial justice for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue