

CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which directed, "...all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then henceforward, and forever free"; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation did not instantly free slaves because it only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas under Union control; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth symbolizes for many Blacks and African-Americans what the Fourth of July does for all Americans - liberty, freedom, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day for us to reflect on the suffering caused by slavery, acknowledge the evils of hatred and discrimination, and commit to being allies of our Black and African-American friends, family, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Africans forced into slavery left a legacy of determination, strength, heroism, and hope, and Juneteenth is a time for Blacks and African-Americans and their fellow Americans to celebrate and honor this legacy; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year the Washington State Legislature passed a measure, signed by the Governor, that makes Juneteenth a legal state holiday and likewise, the City of Mountlake Terrace will recognize Juneteenth this year and June 19 will become an officially recognized statewide holiday beginning in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mountlake Terrace Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and City Council express their support of this important milestone to recognize the plight of our African-American and Black community members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mountlake Terrace recognizes the history of African-American and Black people, including the obstacles placed before them through institutionalized racism, and values their heritage, culture, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mountlake Terrace commends the Snohomish County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Snohomish County NAACP) for their continued efforts to secure equal rights and opportunity for all and congratulates the organization on their 10th Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mayor of the City of Mountlake Terrace do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth Independence Day in Mountlake Terrace.

Signed by the Mayor this 3rd day of June, 2021, at the City of Mountlake Terrace, State of Washington, in the witness whereof and the Seal and signatures of this City are fixed.



Kyoko Matsumoto Wright

Mayor Matsumoto Wright

ATTEST: *Virginia V. Clough*

City Clerk