

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION OBSERVING JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

DATE: JUNE 18, 2024

PRESENTED BY: CITY COUNCIL

SUMMARY:

In 2021, President Biden designated Juneteenth as a federal holiday. On May 2, 2022, Governor Jared Polis signed a bill making Juneteenth an official Colorado state holiday.

Juneteenth, federally recognized as “Juneteenth National Independence Day”, commemorates the day that the final enslaved Americans were made aware of the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth, also known as Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day, marks our country’s second Independence Day, and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve proclamation.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Juneteenth Proclamation, June 2024

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

☐		Financial Stewardship & Asset Management	☐		Reliable Core Services
☐		Vibrant Economic Climate	☒		Quality Programs & Amenities
☒		Engaged Community	☒		Healthy Workforce
☐		Supportive Technology	☒		Collaborative Regional Partner



A PROCLAMATION OBSERVING JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans, and is so named after the events that took place on June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, informed enslaved people in Galveston, Texas of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States for more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", "Freedom Day", or "Emancipation Day" is an example of America's commitment to liberty and is celebrated and remembered as the end of chattel slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many Black Americans continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth as inspiration, and for more than 159 years, Juneteenth Day offers pause for joy, happiness, and nourishment for the community; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth reminds us of Black resiliency, struggle, and hope and encourages future generations to continue the ongoing fight for freedom, equality, and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's Black community has a rich and diverse history, from the pioneers who settled in the state during the 19th century, to the activists who fought for civil rights during the 20th century, to the artists, athletes, and entrepreneurs who continue to make their mark today;

WHEREAS, we must continue to work towards creating a more equitable and just society for all Coloradans, and recognizing the contributions and struggles of the Black community is an essential step towards achieving that goal;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Louisville that we recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth this year and every year; support the continued celebration of Juneteenth to provide an opportunity for the people of the City of Louisville to engage more with the past to better understand the lived experiences of all who have shaped the nation and encourage the people of the City of Louisville to observe Juneteenth Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs; and

The faith and strength of character of Black America remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion or race; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Juneteenth flag will fly June 17 – 21 as the City of Louisville recognizes, adopts, and proclaims this proclamation to underscore the freedom with dignity of every human being. As a governmental body, we oppose and reject any form of oppression and pledge to support our residents and local entities working to achieve equality and protect human rights.

DATED this 18th day June, 2024

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk