

# PROCLAMATION

## JUNETEENTH DAY

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

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that "all persons held as slaves within the rebellious states are, and henceforward shall be free," paving the way for the passing of the thirteenth amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed when General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, almost two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 has an empowering meaning in American history, and is called Juneteenth, combining the words June and nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the Black Community for over 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," and "Freedom Day," is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the strong survival instinct of African Americans who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

**WHEREAS**, although Juneteenth education and celebrations declined in America in the early part of the 20th century, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence of interest in Juneteenth, along with renewed community celebrations of the day; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement, a day marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings, but also a time for reflection and rejoicing; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolishment of slavery, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bernie Norvell, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2021 as the Week of Juneteenth Day in Fort Bragg, California, and urge all residents to become more aware and continually educated on the significance of this celebration in Black History and in the heritage of our nation.

**SIGNED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021**

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**BERNIE NORVELL, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk**

No. 10-2021