

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE JUNE 19, 2020, as *JUNETEENTH* IN THE
CITY OF GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the enslaved in the rebellious states would be thenceforward and forever free;

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was intentionally delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States;

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years;

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, filled with community gatherings, a day where Black freedom and joy is centered while also ensuring we never forget the injustice experienced in this country;

WHEREAS, the city of Greensboro encourages people to observe Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect, rejoice and plan for a brighter future as we continue to address racial injustices in our society today;

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth celebration in the City of Greensboro will take place annually and be supported by the city as a day to celebrate African American heritage, history, freedom and culture with events and ceremonies which reflect the power of community family art and tradition in the face of oppression; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That in the jubilant spirit of Juneteenth do hereby declare June 19, 2020, as *JUNETEENTH* in the City of Greensboro, North Carolina, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.