

# PROCLAMATION DECLARING JUNE 19 JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY



This proclamation declares June 19, 2020, to be Juneteenth Independence Day in the City of Lafayette, Colorado as a reminder of our history in slavery and to celebrate the intent of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as commit to actions that overcome the continued discrimination that exists still in the United States.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in the Confederate territory free; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southern and Southwestern States, for more than two and a half years; and

WHEREAS, June 19 has a special meaning to African Americans, and is called "Juneteenth," combining the words June and nineteenth; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration, commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States and the emancipation of African American slaves throughout the Confederate South; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed a resolution in 1997 to honor and recognize Juneteenth Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, recent events demonstrate, more than 150 years after the abolition of slavery in the United States, there are still acts of violence, prejudice, and discrimination against people of color every day; and

WHEREAS, we do not, and will not, tolerate acts of racism, oppression, intimidation, harassment, prejudice, or racial profiling toward another individual; and

Whereas, as your elected City Council members, we acknowledge and embrace the honor, responsibility, and influence of our positions. Required by the oath when seated, this allows us to effect and influence positive change for our community and all Lafayette residents regardless of race; and

Whereas, the City of Lafayette is committed to building a community of diversity and inclusiveness through our actions, our words, our activities and our policies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lafayette, Colorado, do hereby declare June 19, 2020, to be Juneteenth Independence Day. We encourage all residents to support and recognize our diverse and inclusive community where everyone can feel safe.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF JUNE, 2020.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LAFAYETTE, COLORADO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynnette Beck, CMC, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Harkins, Mayor

