

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, represents a very important milestone in American history, when our nation fulfilled its creed of being “the land of the free;” and

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* on September 22, 1862 with an effective date of January 1, 1863, and more than two years later on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Grainger read *General Order Number 3* in Galveston, Texas, announcing freedom to the last of the enslaved Americans who had yet to be told; and

WHEREAS, this event has come to be known as Juneteenth, which is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth*, and it is not just an African American celebration, but a very significant event in the United States of America’s history, signaling the last day of American slavery, and for that reason it is recognized and treasured by freedom-loving people throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, and it encourages continuous self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, organizations in communities across the United States, including Tampa, Florida, will commemorate Juneteenth Independence Day with celebrations, ceremonies and educational events to bring awareness to all citizens regarding the meaningfulness Juneteenth holds in the nation’s history, and the lessons it bestows on its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2020 as

“JUNETEENTH AWARENESS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to recognize the importance this event played in our nation’s history and to participate in the Juneteenth celebrations.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of May, 2020.





Mayor