

# Proclamation

## Office of the Mayor

### Juneteenth Day

**WHEREAS**, the United States was formed on declared principle that all men are created equal and are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The Country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for peace in modern human civilizations and in our democratic traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19th; and

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln declared that “in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free – honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth;” and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln correctly believed slavery to be in violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the all men are created principle and that its abolition represented a “new birth of freedom” for the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston and spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

**WHEREAS**, the following year, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas and have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

**WHEREAS**, emancipation in Florida was proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, and for this reason Floridians traditionally celebrate Emancipation Day on May 20th; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery and in 2021 President Joseph R. Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making it the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made and continue to make in the beautiful City of Sunrise, the great State of Florida and across our Nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida, together with the City Commission do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026 as: **Juneteenth Day** in the City of Sunrise and urge each resident and business in our community to respect and appreciate all of our differences and work together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed brightens our future and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

Witness My Hand and Official Seal of  
The City of Sunrise, Florida

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Michael J. Ryan, Mayor

