



PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the President and Congress of the United States have declared a national holiday to commemorate the day (June 19, 1865) when Union General Gordon Granger and a contingent of Union soldiers brought news of emancipation to Galveston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act of June 17, 2021, amends the Federal Code to establish a paid holiday for all federal workers on “Juneteenth Independence Day;” and

WHEREAS, the City of DeKalb wishes to join the national government in setting aside a day for the commemoration of liberty and equality for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council support the DeKalb community’s participation in the national conversation focusing on continuing obstacles to racial equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, by embracing Juneteenth as a holiday we encourage community reflection about what unites us and can promote racial understanding and healing.

THEREFORE, I, Cohen Barnes, as Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 19 as “Juneteenth” Day every year in the City of DeKalb and encourage city employees and all citizens to actively participate in dialogue and community events to promote the culture of belonging that was General Granger’s aspiration 156 years ago.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb to be affixed this 12th day of July 2021.



COHEN BARNES, Mayor