



**PROCLAMATION HONORING
JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUNE 19, 2021**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the United States on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, news of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, including Texas and other southwestern states, until June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and shared the news that the Civil War had ended and enslaved people were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves celebrated June 19, 1865, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 46 States and the District of Columbia as a day of observance recognizing the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations are held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of West Saint Paul, Minnesota, that the City of West St. Paul formally recognizes June 19, 2021 as a day of observance of Juneteenth Independence Day and recognizes its historical significance that the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor and City Council accept donation of a Juneteenth Independence Day Flag from ROCC and direct that it be flown outside of City Hall on June 19, 2021.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 14th day of June, 2021.

David J. Napier, Mayor