

# Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, is centered below the title. It features a circular design with a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887". The word "MASCOTTE" is also visible.

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, the Honorable Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, 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 achievements, and it encourages continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, and it is rich with symbolism including the Juneteenth Flag with its star representing a new freedom, and the colors of red, white and blue signifying the history of African American slaves and their descendants, and that they were all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Joseph Robinette Biden, Junior, 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, on June 17, 2021 signed Senate Bill 475 designating Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations in communities across the United States, including locally the Tampa Bay Juneteenth Coalition, will commemorate Juneteenth Independence Day with celebrations, ceremonies, and educational and cultural arts festival 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 Saturday, June 19, 2021 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

  
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Mayor

