

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, the Honorable Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America, issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* on September 22, 1862, which afforded free status under federal law to millions of enslaved African American; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation had an effective date of January 1, 1863, and it was more than two years later, on June 19, 1865, that 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, 46th 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 many locally such as the Tampa Bay Juneteenth Coalition *Juneteenth Independence Day* activities, the City of Tampa *Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony and Festival*, the *AfroCAN Fest: Juneteenth Tampa Bay* week-long community event, the Tampa Museum of Art’s *Juneteenth Cultural Celebration*, COACH Foundation, Inc.’s *Juneteenth Celebration*, and more all commemorating Juneteenth Independence Day with 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 Monday, June 19, 2023, 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, to participate in the Juneteenth celebrations, and thank the organizers of the Juneteenth events for their dedication in ensuring cultural awareness and celebration of Juneteenth is brought to the Tampa community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of June 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor