

Proclamation

Whereas, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, on April 9, 1865, the Civil War ended with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House; and

Whereas, this news reached the state of Texas when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with Union troops; and

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger announced: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."; and

Whereas, Juneteenth became known as the celebration of the end of slavery, which is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; and

Whereas, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and

NOW THEREFORE I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, IL, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as a day to celebrate **Juneteenth**, and urge all citizens to join in this celebration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 17th day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Pride in the Past . . . Promising the Future

Patty Gregory
Patty Gregory, Mayor
Dated this 17th day of June, 2024

