

Proclamation

- Whereas,** Juneteenth National Freedom Day, also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Jubilee Day, is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and
- Whereas,** in 1619, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia; and
- Whereas,** for at least 245 years, Black people were bought and sold as slave labor, suffering unspeakable acts of violence; and
- Whereas,** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing those who were enslaved in Confederate states. However, Southern slave owners ignored that order; and
- Whereas,** finally, on June 19, 1865, 901 days after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, U.S. soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with orders to enforce the Presidential Proclamation, and Black Texans claimed the freedom they had long fought for; and
- Whereas,** on December 6, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime; and
- Whereas,** in 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill into law officially designating Juneteenth as a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans; and
- Whereas,** other systems of oppression, including sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, human bondage and trafficking, mass incarceration, and police violence continued throughout our country's history and perpetuated the racist legal and social systems that persist to this day, leading to disparities in education and job attainment, housing, healthcare, and disproportionate incarceration rates; and
- Whereas,** despite the racism in our country, Black and African American communities have made countless contributions throughout our history.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, on behalf of the Alameda City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as

Juneteenth National Freedom Day

in the City of Alameda and call on all Alamedans to reaffirm our commitment to fighting racism in our community and our institutions to ensure freedom and justice for all.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

