

City of Santa Clara
Proclamation

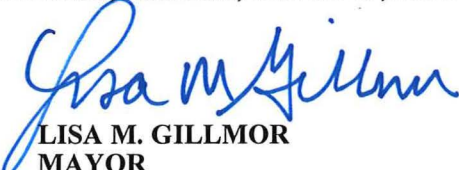
- WHEREAS,** on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Civil War ended with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865; and
- WHEREAS,** although the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on January 1, 1863, almost three years later, on June 19, 1865, it was finally read in Texas by Major General George Granger to enslaved African Americans advising them they had been freed, albeit years later. Texas was the last Confederate State to have the proclamation announced, after the end of the American Civil War in April of that year. Unfortunately, freedom had been delayed and denied for nearly three years; and
- WHEREAS,** Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances and historical cultural readings. Some communities purchased land for Juneteenth celebrations, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, TX. As freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them, and
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; on a larger scale, 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
- WHEREAS,** in commemoration of Juneteenth and in response to the tragic and senseless killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, it is critical that the entire community take responsibility to embrace a conversation surrounding the deep-rooted issues that exist, including the systemic causes of injustice and racism;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LISA M. GILLMOR, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and on behalf of the Santa Clara City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as

Juneteenth

in the City of Santa Clara and call upon members of the Santa Clara community to work together to build connections and trust and strive towards bringing an end to racism and racial injustices in our country.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of Santa Clara, California, this June 19, 2020.


LISA M. GILLMOR
MAYOR
City of Santa Clara

