

Juneteenth Day 2022

Whereas, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all persons held as slaves in the Confederate States of America were to be freed; and

Whereas, news of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation was not immediately delivered to the most remote areas of the Confederate States of America; and

Whereas, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the news that slavery was abolished reached Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865; and

Whereas, June 19th became known as Juneteenth to recognize the end of slavery in the United States of America; and

Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally-celebrated commemoration of the day slavery officially ended in the United States; and

Whereas, Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom and achievement while encouraging continuous self-improvement and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas, since 1991, Florida leaders and legislators have celebrated and acknowledged, through declaration, resolution, designation, and memorial, the emancipation of slaves in Florida following the Civil War; and

Whereas, in August 2020, Florida Senator Pizzo and Senate Memorial 978 resolved June 19th as “Juneteenth Day” to commemorate the traditional observance of the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

Whereas, today, millions of Americans of all races, creeds, religions, and ethnic backgrounds celebrate Juneteenth, which not only celebrates freedom but also acknowledges the achievements and contributions of African Americans; and

Whereas, Juneteenth will be celebrated in the City of Dunedin with various events and activities, including an employee in-service day and a community event, to provide Dunedin residents and city employees the opportunity to learn and celebrate like so many others throughout our nation.

Now, therefore, I, Julie Ward Bujalski, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Dunedin, Florida and on behalf of the entire City Commission, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2022, as Juneteenth Day in the City of Dunedin and urge our citizens and employees to participate in events that observe this day and celebrate freedom for all.