



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, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, 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, 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.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020, as

JUNETEENTH

And encourage the residents and business community of Monroe to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and City.



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor