

Proclamation

**Recognizing June 19, 2021 as  
Juneteenth**



**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, which is celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup> and dates to the late 1860s following the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to remember a time when the United States began to expand the promises of life, liberty, justice, and freedom to include Black and African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to celebrate innumerable contributions that Black and African Americans have made to enrich the lives of every American, to acknowledge and express thankfulness for these contributions, and to recognize how Black and African Americans continue to make America a better place and all of us a better people; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day for each of us to recognize and to take authentic actions to reform policies, practices, and cultural norms that harm and discriminate against Black and African Americans, especially within our financial, legal, justice, and political systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe Equity Council will host Monroe's second annual Justice March and Juneteenth celebration, *Justice to Jubilee*, on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize June 19, 2021, as

**JUNETEENTH**

**AND**, I invite residents to participate in the *Justice to Jubilee* Juneteenth celebration;

**AND**, I call upon everyone to:

**Listen** to voices of Black and African Americans,

**Acknowledge** the injustices that have injured and continue to injure Black and African Americans both today and within our nation's history,

**Condemn and confront** prejudice, bigotry, and violence against Black and African Americans,

**Eliminate** prejudice wherever it exists and **promote** our unity and diversity, and

**Love** our neighbors by working to and realizing liberty and justice for all people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor