

## Proclamation

### ***Recognizing June 19, 2022 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 the enslavement of Black and African Americans in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to remember a time when the United States began to formerly 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 to make us a better people; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe Equity Council will host Monroe's third annual Juneteenth celebration at Sky River Park on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, *Imagine Monroe* aspires that our community is and will be a "safe place, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong."

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize June 19, 2022, as

## **JUNETEENTH**

**AND**, I invite residents to participate in our community's 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,

**Promote** unity and diversity, and

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

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor