

Proclamation

**Recognizing June 19, 2023 as
Juneteenth**



WHEREAS, Juneteenth, which is celebrated on June 19th 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 "Juneteenth Flag" is flown at many city, county, state, and federal buildings to commemorate Juneteenth;

WHEREAS, the Monroe Equity Community will host Monroe's fourth annual Juneteenth celebration at Sky River Park on Saturday, June 17, 2023 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, 2023, as

JUNETEENTH

AND, I encourage residents, business owners, employers, and visitors to learn more about Juneteenth and to take part in the Juneteenth celebration on June 17, 2023 at Sky River Park; and

AND, I do hereby direct the flying of the Juneteenth Flag at the City of Monroe's Municipal Campus beginning on Friday, June 16 until Tuesday, June 20, which includes the weekend of Monroe's annual Juneteenth celebration.

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

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor