

Proclamation

June 19th as Juneteenth

WHEREAS, As stated within the preamble of the United States Declaration of Independence, *we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in the Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment that formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Word about the Emancipation Proclamation reached authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, In 1996 the first legislation to recognize "Juneteenth Independence Day" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, under H.J. Resolution 195; and

WHEREAS, In 1997 Congress recognized the day through Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "Juneteenth" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Garden Grove City Council, do hereby acknowledge and recognize the past struggles to end slavery in the United States in order to form a more perfect union, and to proclaim June 19th as Juneteenth in Garden Grove.

June 9, 2020