



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 57

June 19, 2020

JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, although President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, African Americans in the State of Texas continued to be enslaved for an additional two years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, news of the emancipation came to Texas two years late, on June 19, 1865, when, through the arrival of Major General Gordon Granger and federal troops in Galveston, Texas, enslaved African Americans learned of their right to freedom, the end of the Civil War, and the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 2020 marks the 155th anniversary of Juneteenth, a day that honors the official declaration that slavery in the State of Texas would be forever abolished and that liberated over a quarter-million African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York has a proud tradition of celebrating our nation's triumphs in the advancement of the cause of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of Juneteenth honors the brave history, the courage in the fight for freedom, and the extraordinary contributions of all African Americans to our great nation, and acknowledges the ongoing progress and our never-ending commitment to the full realization of the bedrock principles of Equality, Justice, and Freedom upon which the foundations of our nation were built; and

WHEREAS, this day calls upon us to remember the hardship and suffering endured by African Americans in their fight for freedom and the countless lives lost in the struggle for liberation and the triumph over tyranny; and

WHEREAS, we are guided by their example in our ongoing efforts to make the founding principles of our nation a reality for every single American and to celebrate the common humanity that unites us all; and

WHEREAS, today, the people of the City of New York proudly mark Juneteenth as an extraordinary milestone in American history, and take this day as a special time to commemorate the freedoms and rights that we valiantly have fought for throughout our entire history; and

WHEREAS, we will work with groups across the City, including representatives of organized labor, to find appropriate ways to commemorate the occasion going forward;

NOW, THEREFORE pursuant to the powers vested in me by the laws of the State of New York and the City of New York, including but not limited to the New York General Municipal Law, I hereby declare that henceforth, June 19 shall be recognized as the public holiday of Juneteenth within the City of New York.



Bill de Blasio,
MAYOR