



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, we recall the inhumane treatment forced upon African-Americans for nearly 250 years during bondage and years following; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the Southwestern United States; 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; and

WHEREAS, the annual celebration will be acknowledged in the City of Ocala and will take place within the city limits of Ocala, Florida on or around the weekend of June 19th moving forward.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 and henceforth as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Ocala and I urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and within the History of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 2nd day of June, 2020.

Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala

