

# **P**roclamation

## CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

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**Whereas:** on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

**Whereas:** It was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those still enslaved in Texas: “The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”; and

**Whereas:** the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

**Whereas:** Juneteenth honors not only the end of the cruelty of bondage; but the resolve of the human spirit over generations of adversity; and

**Whereas:** on June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday and enshrining June 19<sup>th</sup> as a day to commemorate the end of slavery in the U.S.; and

**Whereas:** we welcome the commemoration of Juneteenth as a day of truthful reflection to honor the progress we have made, acknowledge how far we still have to go, and renew our commitment to building a shared community vision for advancing justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion of all people in the city of Racine and beyond.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Cory Mason, proclaim June 19, 2023, in the City of Racine:

## **Juneteenth Day**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

**Accomplished at the City Hall  
this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.**

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**Mayor**