

# **P**roclamation

## CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

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**Whereas:** Juneteenth Day is the oldest and most widely celebrated commemoration of the end of the legal enslavement of people in the United States; and

**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:** President Lincoln correctly believed enslaving people to be in direct violation of the principles of the Declaration on Independence; and

**Whereas:** Juneteenth was initially celebrated in Texas on June 19, 1866, to mark the first anniversary of African Americans in Texas learning of the Emancipation Proclamation almost two and a half years after it was formally issued; 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:** Juneteenth Day is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions that African Americans have made and continue to make in Racine, Wisconsin, and across our nation.

**Now Therefore:** I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, proclaim June 19, 2022, 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.**

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**Mayor**