

Proclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

Whereas: On January 1st, 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared the end of slavery and the Emancipation Proclamation. Two and half years later, and two months after the end of the Civil War, Union troops arrived in Galveston on June 19th, 1865, to find that news of the proclamation had not yet reached Galveston and that people were still being held as slaves in Texas; and

Whereas: The leader of the Union Troops, General Gordon Granger then formally announced the emancipation from the balcony of the former Confederate Army headquarters; and

Whereas: Officially known as Emancipation Day and also called Juneteenth Independence Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a compound word for June and nineteenth and commemorates the June 19th, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and the emancipation of African American slaves throughout the Confederate South; and

Whereas: Juneteenth National Independence Day is a US federal holiday that was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Thursday, June 17th, 2021. Juneteenth is a state holiday observed in 29 states and D.C. on June 19th each year; and

Whereas: 2024 marks the first year of the City of Racine recognizing Juneteenth Day as an official holiday, and I encourage all employees to observe and celebrate this important day.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Cory Mason, proclaim June 19, 2025,

Juneteenth Day

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

Accomplished at the City Hall
this 3rd day of June 2025.

Mayor