

PROCLAMATION JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; 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, a 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 commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity, which are at the core of the American Dream;

WHEREAS, In June of 2021, Governor Jay Inslee officially declared Juneteenth a state holiday in Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Don Vanney, Mayor of Arlington, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 as

Juneteenth

in the City of Arlington and urge all citizens to become aware of the significance of this celebration in American history, and in the heritage of our nation and state.



Don E. Vanney, Mayor

June 13, 2025

Date