

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH – JUNE 19, 2026

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, after the Union Army captured New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Confederate states migrated to Texas with more than 150,000 enslaved Black persons, keeping them deprived of their freedom and basic dignity, even after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 1865 — nearly three years after President Lincoln declared all enslaved persons free — Major General Granger and Union Army troops marched to Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and free the last enslaved Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, those who were freed from bondage celebrated their long-overdue emancipation June 19, and today, our Nation commemorates Juneteenth as a chance to celebrate human freedom, reflect on the grievous and ongoing legacy of slavery and rededicate ourselves to rooting out the systemic racism that continues to plague our society as we strive to deliver the full promise of America to every American; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, recognized as a federal holiday in 2021 and celebrated in the Black community for over 150 years, commemorates African American freedom, emphasizes education and achievement, symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolishment of slavery and reminds all of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society; and

WHEREAS, this year, on Juneteenth, we recognize the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America and pay tribute to those, then and now, who fought so long and worked so hard to make the dream of equality a reality; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth flag, raised at City Hall in the month of June, was created in 1977 by activist Ben Haith and the colors and symbols on the flag are representative of freedom and the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, all are encouraged to join us at the Belle Haven Community Campus from 5 – 8 p.m., to gather together, enjoy cultural entertainment, live music, family activities, delicious food and more, in celebration this important day; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and celebrate June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth in Menlo Park.

Betsy Nash, Mayor
June 9, 2026