



PROCLAMATION

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

IN HONOR OF JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, our country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived on July 4th, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, At 2:00 p.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." The Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery a Union war aim and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four million slaves as the Union armies advanced. Hearing of the Proclamation, many slaves escaped to Union lines as the army units moved south, and

WHEREAS, this news reached Texas when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with Union troops. It was on June 19, 1865, that he announced: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

WHEREAS, 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. Commemorating African American freedom and celebrating 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; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth 2024 will be celebrated in Red Bank on June 16, 2024 at Johnny Jazz Park commencing at 1PM.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Portman, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank, on behalf of the Borough Council do hereby proclaim June 16th as a day to celebrate Juneteenth 2024 and urge all citizens to celebrate Juneteenth and recommit to working together to eradicate systemic racism and inequity in our society wherever they find it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of June 2024.



A blue ink signature of William Portman, Mayor, written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Portman, Mayor