



PROCLAMATION

THE OCCASION OF JUNETEENTH

To Facilitate The Juneteenth Celebration And Observance Of The African American Pursuit Of Freedom Throughout America. This Will Bring The Brentwood Community Together To Celebrate Our Common Bond Of Freedom. This As Been An African American Annual Celebration Tradition Since June 19, 1886. Juneteenth occurs on Father's Day in 2023. This Year's National Theme Will Be Recognition Of Discovering your roots, The United States Colored Troops (USCT) Who Proudly Marched Into Galveston, Texas In Their Military Uniforms, With Gold Buttons Shining In The Sun, Announcing Freedom To Those Still Enslaved. Their Message Resulted In General Order #3 Being Written And Posted On The Door Of The Colored Church (Present-Day Reedy Chapel) Informing All Of Their Absolute Equality.

WHEREAS, our country is made up of people from many nations, 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, which stated that *"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 PM 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 who were enslaved within any state or designated part of a state *"shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;"* declaring the permanent abolition of slavery and providing the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four (4) million enslaved persons as the Union armies advanced: and

WHEREAS, hearing of the Proclamation, many slaves escaped to Union lines as the army units moved south; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, almost 2 ½ years later, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery, with this announcement: *"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes*



PROCLAMATION

and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts, and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere”; and

WHEREAS, Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances, and historical cultural readings; some communities purchased land for Juneteenth celebrations, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, TX; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and

WHEREAS, Al Edwards, a freshman state representative, put forward the bill, H.B. 1016, in 1979 making Texas the first state to grant this emancipation celebration; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into law a bill that made Juneteenth an official national holiday; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor of The Town of Brentwood, MD, along with the Town Council formally designate June 19th, 2023, as Juneteenth Celebration Day in the Town of Brentwood, and to be celebrated and commemorated with the raising of the Juneteenth flag at Brentwood Town Hall.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of May 2023

Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor

Marcus Monroe, Council Member

Quianna Taylor, Council Member

