



## TOWN OF BRENTWOOD

### Proclamation on the Occasion of Juneteenth

**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 2:00 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 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 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 1/2 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 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



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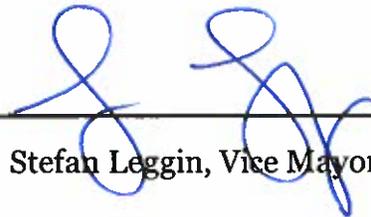
**WHEREAS**, Al Edwards, a freshman state representative, put forward the bill, H.B. 1016, in 1979 making Texas the first state to grant this emancipation celebration; and

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

**WHEREAS**, since then, 45 other states and the District of Columbia have also declared it an official holiday; and **WHEREAS**, in Amherst, residents began organizing community-wide Juneteenth celebrations as early as 2011.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we the Brentwood Mayor and Council, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2021, as Juneteenth in Brentwood, to be celebrated throughout the community, if practical.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.



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Stefan Leggin, Vice Mayor

