

Avondale



JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION

June 19, 2021

Whereas, the Civil War was fought to ensure that America's founding principles of freedom and justice for all was shared by all Americans; and

Whereas, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which granted freedom to all enslaved, although freedom did not become a reality for the enslaved people of Texas; and

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all remaining enslaved people in the state of Texas; and

Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States of America and is also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day; and

Whereas, on March 17, 2016, Governor Doug Ducey signed HB2226, sponsored by Representative Reginald Bolding, recognizing June 19 as Juneteenth Day in Arizona, making Arizona the 45th State to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or special day of observance; and

Whereas, Juneteenth celebrations take place annually throughout Arizona and the nation, consisting of readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, prayer and worship services, cultural performances, community service events, ceremonial observances, food, and more.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kenneth Weise, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Avondale, Arizona do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2021 as Juneteenth and encourage all Avondale residents to reflect upon the value of freedom and join in Juneteenth celebrations across the valley.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk