



PROCLAMATION

Juneteenth

February 22, 2022

Whereas, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to all those who were enslaved; and

Whereas, the news of freedom did not become an immediate reality for the enslaved people of Texas; and

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, over two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage; and

Whereas, those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, and Black Americans came to commemorate June 19 as Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today; and

Whereas, on Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice as we celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility; and

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

Whereas, Avondale will officially recognize June 19 as the Juneteenth holiday as of February 22, 2022, which represents one significant step amongst many in our 75-year history which commits the City to eradicate racism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth N. Weise, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Avondale, Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 19 as:

JUNETEENTH

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all Avondale residents are encouraged to reflect upon the value of freedom and join in Juneteenth celebrations across the valley.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk