



JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION

June 19, 2024

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 more than 250,000 enslaved Black 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

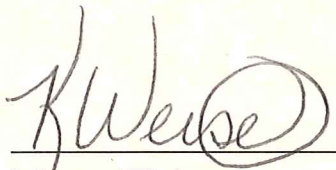
Whereas, those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, and Black Americans came to commemorate June 19th, as Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today; and

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

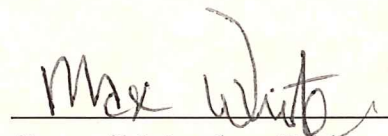
Whereas, on March 17, 2016, Governor Doug Ducey signed HB2226, sponsored by Representative Reginald Bolding, recognizing June 19th, as Juneteenth Day in Arizona and making Arizona the 45th State to recognize Juneteenth as a State holiday; and

Whereas, Avondale officially recognized June 19th, as the Juneteenth holiday as of February 22, 2022, which represents one significant step amongst many in our 76-year history which commits the City to eradicate racism against the descendants of former enslaved Black Americans of African descent.

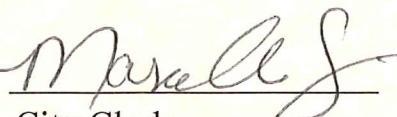
NOW, THEREFORE, I, on behalf of the entire City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth and encourage all Avondale residents to reflect upon the value of freedom and join in Juneteenth celebrations across the valley.



Mayor Weise



Council Member White

Attest: 

City Clerk