



A Proclamation of the City of Mill Creek

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally commemorated celebration of the end of Slavery in the United States and recognizes a period in U.S. history that shaped and continues to influence our society;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the joy and resilience of the Black community and acknowledges the contributions of enslaved Africans including culture, development and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed enslaved people, however it wasn't until December of 1865 that congress required the Confederate states to ratify the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. June 19th, 1865 marks the day when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the state and Major General Gordon Granger informed enslaved African Americans that they were "free", thus ending 246 years of chattel slavery; and

WHEREAS, despite 157 years passing since slavery was officially ended in our nation, people of African descent continue to fight to dismantle systems of racial oppression and discrimination in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the observation of Juneteenth is a time to honor the legacy of Black and African American ancestors. It is a time for reflection, rejoicing, self-improvement and strengthening commitments to cultivating communities that work towards eradicating racism and providing everyone with a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, June 19th, 2023 marks the anniversary of the annual Juneteenth celebration; and

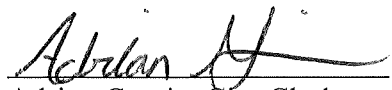
WHEREAS, in honor of Juneteenth, the Washington Legislature passed a measure in the 2021 legislative session making Juneteenth a legal state holiday; and

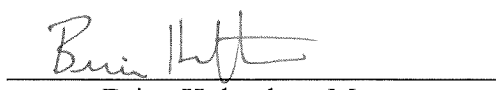
WHEREAS, the City of Mill Creek values the contributions Black and African American people have made to our nation and local community through sharing their history, heritage, and compassion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Holtzclaw, the Mayor of the City of Mill Creek, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2023, as Juneteenth in the City of Mill Creek.

Signed this 13th day of June, 2023

Attest:


Adrian Garcia, City Clerk


Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor