

# proclamation

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**Juneteenth | June 19, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, declaring freedom to the enslaved people in the Confederate territory, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 2½ years later on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led troops to Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the institution of slavery and thousands of enslaved people in Texas were freed, making them the last to learn of their liberation; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 is the emancipation date of those who were suffering for freedom and has been celebrated for over 150 years as the nation is continuing to advance policies that promote equity as well as right the historic wrongs to secure justice and freedom for all; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday, and since then, 49 other states and the District of Columbia have also declared it as such, otherwise known as Emancipation Day; and in 2021 Congress declared Juneteenth a federal holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple events will be held within the city of Winter Park to commemorate Juneteenth at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, Winter Park Library and in Shady Park at Hannibal Square.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Sheila DeCiccio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Winter Park in the state of Florida, do hereby proclaim **Friday, June 19, 2026**, as “**Juneteenth**” in Winter Park, Florida, and encourage all residents to enjoy the educational and cultural celebration, and become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our city.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I** have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Winter Park, Florida, to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

**Sheila DeCiccio**  
Mayor