



Proclamation

Juneteenth Freedom Day

June 19, 2023

WHEREAS, the United States of America is founded on the principles of freedom and justice for all, and the Civil War was fought to ensure that this precious freedom was shared by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which granted freedom to the slaves, although freedom did not become a reality for the slaves in Texas until June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans and is called "Juneteenth" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the community for 156 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery and is a celebration of freedom and equal justice, with an emphasis on education, achievement and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was recognized as America's second Independence Day by the United States Congress through the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 in 1997; and

WHEREAS, many communities across Arizona come together to celebrate Juneteenth as a day of freedom and enjoy a spirit of peace, respect and brotherly love.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Mayor Juan F. Rodriguez, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City of Tolleson, recognizing the importance of this celebration and encouraging citizens in Tolleson to reflect upon the value of freedom, reaffirm the universal principle of justice for all and join in Juneteenth celebrations.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the City of Tolleson, on the thirteenth day of June, two thousand twenty-three, and to which I have caused the Seal of the City of Tolleson to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.



Juan F. Rodriguez

Juan F. Rodriguez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Crystal Zamora

Crystal Zamora, City Clerk