

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, nearly two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers, led by General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, bringing to some of the last enslaved Americans news of their legal status as free persons; and

WHEREAS, the nineteenth of June has become nationally recognized as “Juneteenth,” to commemorate the abolition of slavery and honor the strength, determination, and triumphs of African Americans in the face of extreme oppression and hardship; and

WHEREAS, on this anniversary each year, individuals, communities and organizations across North Carolina and the nation celebrate African American heritage, culture, freedom and tradition; and

WHEREAS, Charlotteans of all colors, creeds and origins share a love of and respect for freedom; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte encourages all people to observe Juneteenth as a day to reflect on and learn from the past, a day of healing and renewal, and a day to spur on efforts to build a brighter future:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

“JUNETEENTH”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all people.

WITNESS MY HAND and the official Seal of the City of Charlotte.

Vi Alexander Lyles
Mayor