



Proclamation

Whereas, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in the Confederate territory free, therefore paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery; and

Whereas, news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed until June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

Whereas, June 19th holds special meaning to African-Americans, and is celebrated as "JUNETEENTH", and has been observed and celebrated for over 150 years; and

Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest known holiday to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the City of Washington will observe Thursday, June 19, 2025 as part of our commitment to racial and social justice, and encourage a day of reflection, recognition and acknowledgement of healing. We recognize the continued need to address racism and to continue our efforts to build a more peaceful and cohesive community.

Now, therefore, I, Liliya Stevens, Mayor of the City of Washington, Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 as:

“Juneteenth Community Recognition Day”

Proclaimed this 16th day of June, 2025

Liliya Stevens, Mayor

ATTEST: Valeri L Brod, City Clerk