

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH
June 19, 2026

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and the end of slavery throughout the Confederate South; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War ended with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee on April 9, 1865, but news of emancipation did not reach Texas until June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced that, "in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free"; and

WHEREAS, numerous local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen alongside longstanding organizations with the common mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and

WHEREAS, events in our nation have highlighted the racism and inequities that continue to be faced by Black Americans and people of color; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to eliminate these injustices and work toward a nation and community where people "will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," as envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, culture, leadership, and enduring contributions of African Americans to our nation, state, and local communities; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as both a celebration of freedom and a reminder of the continuing work to ensure that the ideals of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity are realized for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Albany City Council encourages all residents to recognize and learn about the significance of Juneteenth in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and community; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Albany City Council hereby recognizes June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth in the City of Albany and encourages all community members to learn about, celebrate, and reflect upon the significance of Juneteenth and its enduring meaning in our nation's history.

DATED: June 15, 2026
City of Albany Proclamation No. 2026-19


PEGGY McQUAID, MAYOR