



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United States was established on July 4th, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”;

WHEREAS, At 2:00 p.m. on New Year’s Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”;

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery a Union war aim and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four million slaves as the Union armies advanced and as a result after hearing the Emancipation Proclamation, many slaves escaped to Union lines as the army units moved south;

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865 almost 2 ½ years later Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery, which read: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere”;

WHEREAS, Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances, historical cultural readings with some even purchasing land for Juneteenth celebrations, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, TX.

WHEREAS, As freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them, until on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday;


WHEREAS, President Joe Biden signed legislation that made Juneteenth an official federal holiday in June 2021;

WHEREAS, There is significant importance in acknowledging the people of African descent who were stolen from their land, separated from their families, and ripped from their culture through slavery; and

WHEREAS, There is significant importance in paying reverence and respect to people of African descent for building the United States’ infrastructure and economy now, therefore be it

Proclaimed, That the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim June 19th, 2024 as Juneteenth in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with events taking place June 15 through June 19 to celebrate Black culture, amplifying the legacy of Black families, Black owned businesses, Black leaders, Black historical figures and Black organizations and institutions who have contributed to the vitality, visibility and vibrance of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Adopted **June 18, 2024**
Moved **Taylor**
Seconded **Strebs**
Carried

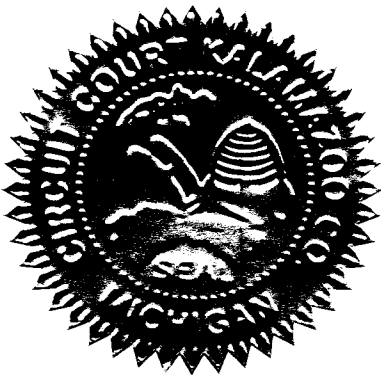


Tami Rey, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)SS
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

I, Meredith Place, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the “County”) do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the proclamation adopted by the Board of Commissioners at the meeting held on this 18th day of June, 2024. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto affixed by signature this 20th day of June, 2024.





Meredith Place
County Clerk/Register of Deeds