



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, it took almost two-and-half years for enslaved African Americans in Texas to be informed of their liberation on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, not all enslaved people on American soil were liberated until the enactment of the Thirteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, that day became known as Juneteenth and is now commemorated as the day when the last American slaves were freed; and

WHEREAS, we pay honor to those who suffered and acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath; and

WHEREAS, we are currently still fighting systemic racism and pursuing equity within our society; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge African American freedom, contributions, and achievements within our community, past, and present; and

WHEREAS, in the 2021 Legislative Session, the Washington Legislature made Juneteenth a state holiday; and

WHEREAS, during Juneteenth, we recognize the history of African Americans in the U.S. and celebrate the inclusion of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities; and

WHEREAS, we commit to working together toward equity for all in expanding economic, educational, and career opportunities for all those in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGELA BIRNEY, Mayor of the City of Redmond, Washington, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Redmond. We encourage everyone to learn more about the history and current state of Black and African America by reading, watching, listening, and engaging with others. The City of Redmond is working to convene community conversations on race, equity, and social justice in the near future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Birney".

Angela Birney, Mayor

June 19, 2021  
Date