



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Army Major General Gordon Granger led troops into Galveston, Texas, and presented an order announcing all enslaved people were now free, two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma celebrates the nation's movement forward from President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation issued on September 22, 1862, to General Granger's 1865 Order and finally the adoption of the thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution on December 18, 1865, and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions African Americans have made to society; and symbolizes the precious promises of freedom, equality and opportunity that are at the core of the American Dream, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma acknowledges and condemns the history of slavery in our nation and commits to working toward eradicating systematic racism and inequality, as reflected by the Board of Park Commissioner's adoption of Anti-Racism Resolution No. R32-20 to disrupt structural and institutional racism, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners in 2021 designated Juneteenth as an officially recognized holiday to be observed annually by Metro Parks Tacoma, and

WHEREAS, we will welcome two community celebrations at Wright and Stewart Heights parks June 19 as a day of reflection, recognition and healing to honor the progress we have made and acknowledge how far we still have to go, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks renews its commitment to advancing justice, diversity, equity and inclusion for all people, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for all people to celebrate Juneteenth as a milestone toward achieving the American ideal that "all men are created equal."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners hereby proclaims JUNETEENTH as a Metro Parks Tacoma holiday, and encourages all Tacomans to recognize the continued need to battle racism and build a society that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

The foregoing proclamation was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regularly scheduled meeting held on June 12, 2023.

ATTEST:

President

Clerk




