



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, 2020 is the 155th year of Juneteenth Freedom Day, a nationally recognized day which celebrates the rich culture, legacy and heritage of African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States, dating back to June 19, 1865 when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war was ended, freeing the enslaved; and

WHEREAS, this was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which became official January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, today, Juneteenth Freedom Day celebrates African-American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, as it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, to ensure the events of 1865 are not forgotten; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Massachusetts became the 25th state to recognize Juneteenth Freedom Day with the firm understanding and realization that all cultures share a common respect for freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Gary Christenson, Mayor do hereby proclaim that every **June 19th will forever more** be celebrated **as Juneteenth Freedom Day in Malden, Massachusetts**. We strongly urge all residents of the City to recognize and celebrate annually this nationally recognized commemoration which honors the history, legacy and culture of African-Americans throughout our City.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the City of Malden this 19th day of June in the year two thousand twenty to be affixed.

GARY CHRISTENSON, Mayor

