

THE OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WAYNESBORO
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



PROCLAMATION (P22-12)

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free,” paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Granger arrived in Texas and spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and WHEREAS, a Juneteenth celebration will take place at Constitution Park on June 19, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Henderson, Mayor, on behalf of the Waynesboro City Council, do hereby declare June 19, 2022, as JUNETEENTH DAY in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Waynesboro, Virginia to be affixed this 13th day of June, 2022.

ROBERT HENDERSON, MAYOR
CITY OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA