

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is often referred to as our country's second Independence Day and has long been celebrated among the African American community, its historical significance has largely been omitted from educational curricula, making it relatively unknown to the side population; and

WHEREAS, despite the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January, 1, 1863, and passage of the 13th Amendment by the U.S. Congress, more than 250,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants remained in bondage in the State of Texas until the arrival of Union troops at Galveston on the 19th day of June 1865; and

WHEREAS, when the news of their emancipation spread, following the reading of "General Order Number Three" by Major General Gordon Granger, the formerly enslaved people of Texas reacted with joyous celebrations, launching what would become an annual event known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Juneteenth evolved over time, leading up to January 1, 1980, when Texas became the first state in the nation to formally establish Juneteenth as an official holiday, thanks to the tireless efforts of the late, former State Representative Al Edwards, who served for more than 30 years in the Texas State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, we honor the legacy of those who first received the news on that unforgettable day in Galveston and understand that the joy reflected in the celebration of Juneteenth provides a salve and a buffer against the generational trauma of slavery and widespread systemic racism that limits Black prosperity and health to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth National Independence Act, 415-14 was created for the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans and commit together to eradicating systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Carlos Rendo, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as

JUNETEENTH DAY

and calls upon the people of Woodcliff Lake to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and reflections and to continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, equitable and prosperous for all.

Mayor Carlos Rendo

Councilman Stephen Falanga
Council President Jacqueline Gadaleta
Councilwoman Angela Hayes

Councilwoman Josephine Higgins
Councilwoman Jennifer Margolis
Councilman Richard Schnoll

