



PROCLAMATION

**Juneteenth
June 19, 2019**

WHEREAS: The first Juneteenth Day was celebrated on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery and read to the people of Texas General Order Number 3, which began most significantly with these words, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer"; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth is a day of reflection, renewal and pride. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African American experience. It is inclusive of all races, ethnicities and nationalities; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth serves symbolically, and in reality, as a reference point from which to measure the progress and contributions made by African Americans to this society; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth is a day that recognizes the sufferings of slavery, to acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath; and

WHEREAS: On Juneteenth, we think about that moment in time when the enslaved in Galveston, Texas, received word of their freedom. We imagine the depth of their emotions, their jubilant dance and their fear of the unknown; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth is a day that we commit to each other the needed support as family, friends and coworkers. It is a day we build coalitions that enhance African American economics; and

WHEREAS: On Juneteenth we come together, young and old, to listen, to learn and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer together - to better utilize the energy wasted on racism. Juneteenth is a day that we pray for peace and liberty for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael O'Connor, Mayor of The City of Frederick, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2019, as **Juneteenth** in The City of Frederick and ask all to join with me in celebrate this historic day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. O'Connor", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Michael O'Connor

Aldermen:

Kelly Russell, President Pro-Tem.,

Derek Shackelford, Roger Wilson,

Donna Kuzemchak, Ben MacShane