



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State has a tradition of acknowledging significant milestones in advancing the cause of freedom, and New Yorkers join in celebrating the 156th anniversary of *Juneteenth*, an observance that commemorates the official announcement made in the State of Texas regarding the abolition of slavery and the freeing of some quarter-million African Americans; and

Whereas, in Texas, the news of liberation came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863; African Americans across the state were made aware of their right to freedom on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston with federal troops to read General Order No. 3 announcing the end of the Civil War and that all enslaved were now free, as well as to maintain a presence in Texas for the purpose of enforcement of emancipation among slave-owners throughout the state; and

Whereas, *Juneteenth* is a reminder of the hardships and losses suffered by African Americans in their struggle to attain freedom, and we pay tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this quest; their difficult experiences provide among the most poignant and painful lessons of humankind that continue to resonate with people of all backgrounds; and

Whereas, throughout our history, the Empire State has been a champion of freedom and a leader in civil, social, and human rights and, as our country endures challenging times, we stand resolutely against all forms of violence fueled by prejudice and hate, which contradict our core values as one family of humankind; on October 14, 2020, I was proud to sign into law, legislation designating *Juneteenth* as an official public holiday in New York State, not only serving as a day to recognize the achievements of the Black community, but also providing an important opportunity for self-reflection on the systemic injustices that our society still faces today, and that we will work together to overcome; and

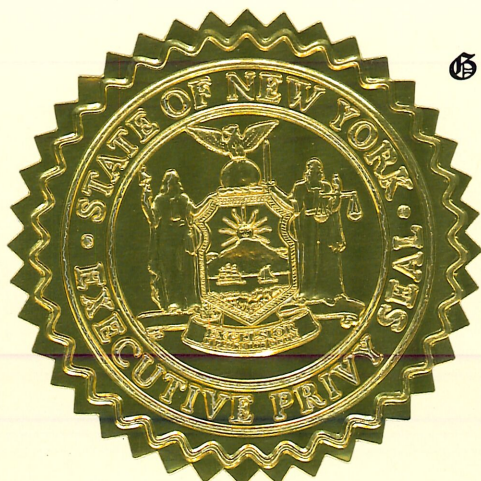
Whereas, the official emancipation of African Americans throughout the United States literally and figuratively opened doors of opportunity that enabled following generations to contribute immeasurably to our nation's richness, equal rights for all people, and global leadership, and today communities across our state – from Brooklyn to Buffalo – observe the anniversary of *Juneteenth* with appropriate ceremonies to mark this significant anniversary in the annals of liberty and equality in America; and

Whereas, *Juneteenth* honors the history, perseverance, and achievements of African Americans, and celebrates America's progress and continuing commitment to realizing the principles of liberty and equality upon which our nation was founded; it is fitting that all New Yorkers join to commemorate such an important day in our nation's history, as we take this opportunity to reflect upon and rejoice in the freedom and civil rights that we all share as Americans;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

JUNETEENTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this tenth day
of June in the year two thousand twenty-one.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa