

City of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Proclamation

**Juneteenth
June 19, 2022**

- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news the war had ended and the enslaved were free; and
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth, celebrates Black freedom while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. The origins of the celebration in 1865 are not forgotten, but all of those roots tie back to the fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing; and
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth's mission is to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth has been a positive force in our nation as a whole and the Colorado Springs Community in particular since its founding in 1865; and
- WHEREAS,** local chapters of national organizations like The NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, have long standing relationships in the Pikes Peak Region as trusted leaders fostering cultural respect and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS,** following their example, we declare in one voice, we all grow in respect and appreciation for all of our cultures and differences by being exposed to one another and working together; and
- WHEREAS,** this kind of unity, brightens the future for all of us and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Mayor and City Council of Colorado Springs, do hereby recognize Juneteenth and all community members are asked to join us in celebrating and recognizing the significant and commendable accomplishments of the African-American community in the Pikes Peak Region.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this fourteenth day of June 2022.

John W. Suthers, Mayor
City of Colorado Springs

Tom Strand, President
Colorado Springs City Council