



Mayoral Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger announced that slaves in Texas were free by order of the President of the United States. The announcement came two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which had become official January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19; and,

WHEREAS, June 19 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, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, a day of liberation, resilience, and fortitude; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long over-due. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. When we are sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, June 17, 2021, after unanimous passage in the United States Senate and subsequent passage in the House, President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT I, J. BLAKE MASSENGILL, MAYOR of the Town of Fuquay-Varina, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as JUNETEENTH in the Town of Fuquay-Varina, and urge everyone to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our nation and our town.

Proclaimed this the 8th day of June 2022.



FUQUAY-VARINA, NORTH CAROLINA

J. Blake Massengill

J. Blake Massengill, Mayor