

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services		
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Suni Tolton, Equity and Social Justice Coordinator		
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

**ISSUE STATEMENT:**

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, which is the day that Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and informed those that the war was over and slavery had ended. This was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863. Enslaved people in other states had been freed earlier with the Emancipation Proclamation, but Texas was somewhat isolated from Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War, which enabled the enslavers to maintain chattel slavery until the presence of General Granger’s regiment of 2,000 troops was strong enough to influence and overcome resistance.

The holiday was originally called June the 19<sup>th</sup> and eventually became Juneteenth. Also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Liberation Day, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery. Segregation laws prohibited Black people from using public spaces, so when they wanted to celebrate the first annual Juneteenth, they celebrated near rivers and lakes. Eventually, many Black people also raised money and purchased spaces like Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas. People dressed up, had barbecues, sang spirituals, and preached religious sermons. Strawberry soda, red fruit, and desserts like strawberry pie and red velvet cake were served to commemorate the blood that was shed during slavery. These traditions are still practiced as Juneteenth is celebrated with parades, cook-outs, and festivals.

Juneteenth provides a time to reflect on the history, trauma, and legacy slavery, but also celebrate the strength and resilience of those who survived this tragedy and transformed this country in the face of oppression. It is also a time to address current issues that impact Black people negatively and continue the work of creating an anti-racist community through addressing biased policies and practices and ending racial inequities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Mayor read the proclamation.

Approved By:           City Manager **DT**      City Attorney **MK**



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the day that General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 and informed enslaved African-Americans that the Civil War and slavery had ended; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued two and a half years earlier on January 1, 1863 and declared “that all persons held as slaves” are free, but slavery had been maintained in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Liberation Day, is celebrated nationally as the end of chattel slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, recognition of Juneteenth is an opportunity to learn more about our history and address current manifestations of racism in ourselves, institutions, and systems; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council Resolution No. 467 stated the City’s commitment to Shoreline becoming an anti-racist community, which includes addressing all the ways racism persists as a systemic and chronic reality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Scully, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022 as

## JUNETEENTH

in the City of Shoreline and encourage all people to celebrate and take action to achieve racial justice for all.

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Keith Scully, Mayor