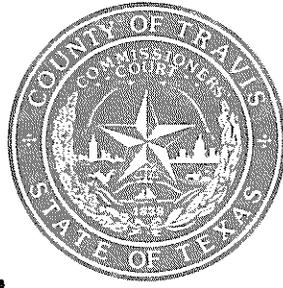


Travis County Commissioners Court



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes that on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger announced the freedom for all slaves in Texas. This announcement ended the last major vestige of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Order issued by General Granger read in part: "*The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are FREE*". Upon receiving this news, the former slaves celebrated jubilantly, and their celebrations established America's second Independence Day, the oldest African American holiday, and in 1980, Texas established Juneteenth as a state holiday; and

WHEREAS, After their June 19th emancipation, Black Texans began the long struggle to gain equal rights as American citizens and today, 151 years later, we honor these courageous men and women by replacing violence with peace, replacing hatred with love, replacing intolerance with appreciation, and replacing bigotry with respect for ALL men and women; and

WHEREAS, Travis County residents value history, ethnic heritage, and culture, and it is desirable that we always be cognizant of the impact of June 19th as a day to celebrate the freedoms that are guaranteed to all Americans; and as part of our understanding, we recognize the cultural heritage, history, deep roots, and rich traditions of African Americans in Texas and in Travis County; and

WHEREAS, Celebrations like Juneteenth not only remind and educate us about slavery and its legacy, but it awakens the struggle of African American families that thirst for knowledge of their history. With the advent of new DNA testing, and programs like *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, and Websites like *Ancestry.com*, the hope of

finding their slave ancestry has become a reality and has heightened the reason to celebrate freedom; and

WHEREAS, In the spirit of this 151st Anniversary of the Juneteenth Emancipation day, let us all be reminded that our nation will not achieve its full potential until each of us has been granted unfettered opportunity to reach his or her potential and each of us must join the fight to make this nation the best it can be by being the best we can be; and

WHEREAS, It is with great honor that we announce that the 27th Annual Travis County Juneteenth Celebration will be held on Friday, June 17, 2016 in downtown Austin at 8th and Lavaca Street from 11:00am to 2:00pm and we look forward to celebrating with Travis County residents, employees, and all of those who love and value freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY RECOGNIZE AND PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2016 AS:

“JUNETEENTH – TEXAS EMANCIPATION DAY”

IN TRAVIS COUNTY; AND ENCOURAGE ALL TRAVIS COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND RESIDENTS TO ATTEND THE TRAVIS COUNTY JUNETEENTH FESTIVITIES ON JUNE 17TH AND SUPPORT THE NOBLE PURPOSE OF JUNETEENTH – EMANCIPATION DAY.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 7TH DAY OF JUNE 2016

SARAH ECKHARDT
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

BRIGID SHEA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4