

# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, in August 1619, the first recorded enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, after enduring the brutal journey known as the Middle Passage; and

**WHEREAS**, for generations, enslaved Africans and their descendants endured the injustice and cruelty of enslavement while persevering with strength, resilience, and hope, contributing immeasurably to the foundation and progress of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring enslaved people in Confederate states to be free and paving the way for the abolition of slavery through the 13th Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced General Order No. 3, informing enslaved African Americans in Texas that they were free, marking a defining moment in American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates both the celebration of freedom and the ongoing pursuit of justice, equality, and opportunity for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1866, Juneteenth has been observed through gatherings, education, storytelling, music, civic engagement, and recognition of the enduring contributions of African Americans to our nation and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2020, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville unanimously voted to recognize June 19th as a City holiday, and Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2026**, as **Juneteenth** in the City of Rockville and encourage all employees, residents, and visitors to commemorate this important day through reflection, learning, celebration, and renewed commitment to freedom, justice, dignity, and unity for all.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

June 1, 2026