



WHEREAS, In August 1619, twenty (20) enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia after a torturous journey through the Middle Passage; and

WHEREAS, enslaved Africans continued to be shipped to our shores until the 19th century, after surviving the Middle Passage as the initial twenty (20) enslaved Africans endured during their journey; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the conditions enslaved Africans were forced to live, they persevered and contributed significantly to the development of our nation; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring enslaved people in confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the Proclamation in the state of Texas didn't occur until on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led union soldiers into Galveston, Texas to declare that all enslaved people were free; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth (combination of June and Nineteenth) commemorates the date of General Gordon Granger's announcement of General Order No. 3, proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, the last state of the confederacy with institutional slavery; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations have taken place since 1866 and have evolved over the years to include events to increase voter registration, historical re-enactments, oral history of resiliency, and appreciation of the significant contributions that African Americans have made to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the Mayor and Council of Rockville unanimously voted in favor of declaring June 19th as a City holiday, and Juneteenth officially becoming a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, making Juneteenth the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was declared a holiday in 1986; and

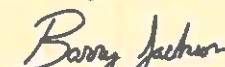
NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, proclaim **June 19, 2025**, as **Juneteenth** and encourage all employees, visitors, and residents to use this day to appreciate the freedom for all, and to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our Nation and City.




Monique Ashton, Mayor


Kate Fulton, Councilmember


Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myles, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

June 2, 2025