



**HONORARY PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2021 AS
"JUNETEENTH DAY" IN ARROYO GRANDE**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863, but had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order;

WHEREAS, African Americans celebrated Emancipation Days across the former Confederacy, often with elaborate memorials for Black Union veterans, family reunions, music and religious services, and while the celebration of Juneteenth began in Texas, it gained national popularity during the Civil Rights Era; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Governor of California proclaimed the third Saturday in June to be known as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day: a day of observance," to urge all Californians in celebrating this day to honor and reflect on the significant roles that African-Americans have played in the history of the United States and how African-Americans have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, brotherhood, and equality;" and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth embodies the indomitable human spirit of the past, the present, and all time and provides us all the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the true American spirit, to strive for a more perfect Union, and to secure the blessings of freedom, justice, and equality for all in this great country of ours; and

WHEREAS, this year, Juneteenth celebrations take place in light of continued calls for justice, with people across the nation speaking out against systemic racism and its deadly consequences for Black Americans, urging all Americans to reflect on the ongoing cause of freedom for Black Americans – remembering that, though General Granger's announcement in 1865 called for "absolute equality," that vision was, and remains, far from complete.

WHEREAS, the collaboration of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, local businesses, and local government demonstrates a shared commitment to being part of the solution to systemic racism and bias, acknowledging the importance of strength through unity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Caren Ray Russom, Mayor of the City of Arroyo Grande hereby recognizes the third Saturday of June 2021 as "Juneteenth Day" in the City of Arroyo Grande and urge all to join in recognizing the importance of this day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Arroyo Grande to be affixed this 8th day of June 2021.

CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR



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