CITY OF LACEY
Official Proclamation

WHEREAS, our great country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy society; and

WHEREAS, Black people were bought and sold as slave labor for 250 years in North America and then the United States of America and suffered unspeakable acts of violence and oppression; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the enslaved people in Confederate territories to be free and paving the way for the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery in our nation ; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation – signed by President Lincoln over two- and one-half years prior – and freed all remaining enslaved people in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances, and historical cultural readings; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and Juneteenth is now a worldwide celebration which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the residents, businesses, community groups, and the City of Lacey are firmly committed to celebrating and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge African American freedom, contributions, and achievements within this community, past, and present.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Ryder, Mayor of the City of Lacey, on behalf of the Lacey City Council, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2021, as

Juneteenth

in the City of Lacey and encourage all residents, businesses, and community groups to explore this important celebration of American culture, history, and pride.

Mayor Andy Ryder
June 17, 2021