

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 and African American 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, leaving a catastrophic and unrelenting legacy of trauma for generations of African Americans; 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-a-half years prior – and freed all remaining enslaved people in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, formerly enslaved 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

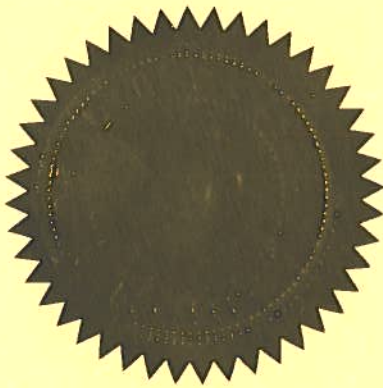
WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is a day of profound significance celebrating the emancipation of slavery and a day that reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose, resolve, and unity; and

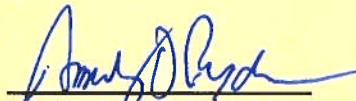
WHEREAS, members of the Fred U. Harris Lodge #70 of Prince Hall Masons have hosted an annual community-wide barbeque in celebration of Juneteenth for the last 41 years, drawing nearly 1,000 attendees from around the greater Thurston County area, the Pacific Northwest, and Canada, and the Lodge has invited the City of Lacey and other jurisdictions to join in the celebration of Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17th, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) in Lacey;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Ryder, Mayor of the City of Lacey, on behalf of the Lacey City Council, do hereby recognize and commemorate June 17th, 2023, as

Juneteenth Day

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 1, 2023