



City of Iowa City PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves to be free; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorations began to be celebrated—consisting of prayer services, inspirational speeches, readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, food, games, and dances; and

Whereas, in 1997, the 105th U.S. Congress officially recognized Juneteenth as Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent; and

Whereas, Juneteenth reflects our community's deep belief in liberty and equality for all individuals, as all benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of others; and

Whereas, Juneteenth celebrates the strength and resolve of African - Americans throughout history, and is an opportunity to honor African-American culture, art, history, and achievement; and

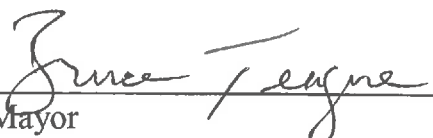
Whereas, the first major Juneteenth festival in Johnson County was hosted by Club Kazi, a group in 2007 whose name means “to work” in Swahili, and was held on June 26, 2011, at Mercer Park; and

Whereas, the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, and many other sponsors are hosting free public events to commemorate Juneteenth, including an Education and Resource Fair on June 16, a Block party and screening of *Miss Juneteenth* on June 17, a Blood Drive on June 18, a meal drive-through on June 19, and a History Walk-in throughout the week of June 13 to 19, details regarding all of which can be found at www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/juneteenth.

Now, therefore, I, Bruce Teague do hereby recognize June 19, 2021, as

Juneteenth National Freedom Day

in Iowa City, and encourage community members to participate in the commemorative events.



Mayor
Signed in Iowa City, Iowa,
this 15th day of June 2021.

