



**PROCLAMATION HONORING
JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUNE 19, 2022**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the United States on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, news of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, including Texas and other southwestern states, until June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and shared the news that the Civil War had ended and enslaved people were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves celebrated June 19, 1865, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”. This day, the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, has become a day for African Americans to celebrate not only their freedom, but their history, culture and achievements; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was established as a federal holiday and signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 17, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of West Saint Paul, Minnesota, that the City of West St. Paul formally recognizes June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth. On Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. And, we celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and City Council direct that the Juneteenth Independence Day Flag, donated by ROCC, be flown outside of City Hall on June 17th through June 20th, 2022.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of June, 2022.

David J. Napier, Mayor