



**PROCLAMATION HONORING JUNETEENTH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND RECOGNIZING IT AS  
A CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL HOLIDAY  
JUNE 19, 2023**

**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 remembering the centuries of struggle and progress led by abolitionists, educators, civil rights advocates, lawyers, activists, trade unionists, religious leaders, public officials, and everyday Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth was established as a federal holiday and signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 17, 2021. In 2023, the State of Minnesota established the holiday. In all contracts with bargaining units the city agreed to authorize Juneteenth as a holiday once the holiday was recognized by the State of Minnesota. The legislature has passed, and the governor has signed a law establishing Juneteenth as a state holiday. On March 13, 2023, the City of West St. Paul established Juneteenth as a City holiday.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. We celebrate the emancipation of all Black Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism and inequity. 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** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of West Saint Paul, Minnesota, that the City of West St. Paul formally recognizes and establishes June 19 of each year as the Juneteenth holiday. City offices will be closed in observance of the Juneteenth holiday on June 19, 2023 and every year going forward. In the event June 19 falls on a weekend, closure will be in accordance with city policy.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> through June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, this 12th day of June, 2023.

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David J. Napier, Mayor