

Proclamation

A Proclamation On the Occasion of Juneteenth, June 19, 2021.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln inscribed the Emancipation Proclamation at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, on January 1, 1863, by using his war powers as President, and;

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation stated that all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a State, especially the rebellious Southern States, "are, and henceforward shall be, free." and;

WHEREAS, despite being freed on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation could not be enforced in many places, until the end of the Civil War in 1865, and;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and his Union troops arrived at Galveston, Texas and delivered Order No. 3, which said: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.", and;

WHEREAS, slavery as we have come to know it, entered America's shores at Point Comfort, Virginia in 1619, marking a bloody and heart wrenching period in American history, and;

WHEREAS, after the end of slavery and a failed period of reconstruction, Jim Crow laws and systemic, formalized, government-sponsored segregation, and racist laws and practices prevailed in full force until the Civil Rights movement and subsequent laws of the 1960's, and;

WHEREAS, despite all of these advancements, our country as a whole is still dealing with the multi-generational effects of slavery and systemic racism, and;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of celebration and remembrance to mark the freeing slaves at the end of the Civil War, and;

WHEREAS, Forty-six states and the District of Columbia currently recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or day of recognition, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a resolution has passed the US Senate to recognize Juneteenth as a National Holiday.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor of the City of Monessen, do hereby declare June 19, 2021 the celebratory day of Juneteenth with this proclamation, and with a reminder that we all have so much work to do in terms of racial justice and equity, and that our work begins in our own backyards; for we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MSH".

Matthew Shorraw
Mayor, City of Monessen