

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF – OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day, recognizes the anniversary of the events of June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger led some 2,000 Union troops into Galveston Bay, Texas to read the order announcing that the more than 250,000 enslaved Black persons in the state and other states “in rebellion against the United States” were free by executive decree; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and celebrates and commemorates both the legacies of Black liberation, endurance, and joy and the broader legacy of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks both the end of most Black American enslavement and the start of an era of great hope, resiliency, uncertainty, and continued struggle for newly freed Black persons in America. With it comes the call to reflect, remember, and never repeat the historic, dehumanizing impacts of slavery, segregation, racial violence, voter disenfranchisement, or the other historic and persistent examples of injustice witnessed throughout African American History; and

WHEREAS, collectively, Juneteenth reminds us of all the invaluable inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as well as the precious promises of freedom, equity, and opportunity core to so much of what our nation holds dear; and

WHEREAS, we take up and extend the call to action to celebrate and ensure true freedom for all, doing our part to collectively strive to close gaps of immeasurable distance between us, affirm the promises of the Declaration of Independence that all people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, reject acts of violence and expand opportunities to understand and learn from our frank yet compassionate, challenging yet courageous conversations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Becky Daggett, Mayor of the City of Flagstaff, Arizona do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026, as

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Becky Daggett

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Marcy Salzburg

CITY CLERK