

*Proclamation in honor of Juneteenth Day*  
*June 19, 2022*

*Whereas* Juneteenth, or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19; and

*Whereas* President Abraham Lincoln declared that “in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free - honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth”; and

*Whereas* President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

*Whereas* President Lincoln correctly believed slavery to be in violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and that its abolition represented a “new birth of freedom” for the United States; and

*Whereas* more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas, when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston and spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

*Whereas* June 19<sup>th</sup> has a special meaning to the Black community, and is called “JUNETEENTH” combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the Black community for over 150 years; and

*Whereas* Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery; and

*Whereas* Juneteenth is an official State of Texas (1980) and federal (2021) holiday and celebrated in Hidalgo County since the early 1900s to honor the legacy of Black Americans past and present; and

*Whereas* Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in Hidalgo County, The State of Texas and across our Nation.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby declares June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth and encourages all Hidalgo County residents to come together in the celebration of the freedom legacy of Black Americans, their important contributions to the betterment of Texas life, and to reaffirm our commitment to achieve an ever-advancing prosperity for all people.

***Approved this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2022.***

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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**Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk