

Proclamation in Honor and Celebration of "Juneteenth Day"
June 19, 2023

- 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 13th 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 19th 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* this year's celebration is entitled "Remembering Our Roots and Celebrating Our Resilience,"; 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 proclaims June 19, 2023, 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 13th day of June 2023.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest:

ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.