

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes that on June 19, 1865, almost three years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger announced in Galveston the freedom of all slaves throughout Texas, which read in part: *“The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free;”* and

WHEREAS, this announcement ended the last major vestige of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest African American holiday, and in 1980, Texas established Juneteenth as a state holiday; and

WHEREAS, this Commissioners Court recognizes that the early Black inhabitants of Williamson County were brought here as slaves; and

WHEREAS, in the 153 years since General Granger’s Proclamation, the struggle against bigotry, hate, and violence continues today; and

WHEREAS, we believe that peace, love, and respect for one another and an emphasis on historical accuracy can overcome deep-seated mistrust and move our society towards a goal of a more inclusive and equitable community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes and proclaims, June 19, 2018 as:

“JUNETEENTH – TEXAS EMANCIPATION DAY”

in Williamson County, and encourages all Williamson County employees and residents to learn more about Juneteenth and support the noble purpose of this day.

Signed on this date: _____

Dan Gattis, County Judge

Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct 1

Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3

Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2

Larry Madsen, Commissioner Precinct 4