

The Town of Hilton Head Island

Proclamation

WHEREAS, January 1, 1863 was the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing the practice and institution of slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865. The enslaved living in Texas did not receive word of the Emancipation Proclamation until General Gordon Granger read the federal orders in Galveston, Texas, that all enslaved people in Texas were free; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has since become known as Freedom Day and has also become known as the official day for recognition for Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hilton Head Island recognizes that the importance and value of celebrating Juneteenth lies in the acknowledgement that there remains much work to be done in addressing equal rights and equal access to opportunity in order to overcome racism in our country and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the Town of Hilton Head Island and Town staff are committed to pursuing the ideals of justice, equality, and peace among all of its residents.

NOW THEREFORE I, John J. McCann, along with the Town Council, do hereby declare June 19, 2020 as:

JUNETEENTH DAY

in the Town of Hilton Head Island, and hereby encourage our community to celebrate and respect this day, and continue working together to overcome all the injustices.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed this 19th day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty.

John J. McCann, Mayor

Attest:

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk