



CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, to free more than three million slaves in the Confederate states, but Texas was considered a safe haven for slaveholders until federal troops arrived more than two years later on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, California’s legislature passed a resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant contribution and advances made by African Americans in our state, and to commemorate the strength and determination of African Americans throughout their history; and

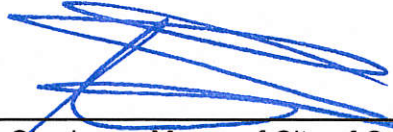
WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day during which we develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the African American experience; and

WHEREAS, honoring Juneteenth reflects our belief and commitment to liberty, equality and justice: and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day to recognize and appreciate the achievements of African Americans across the City, the state, and the nation in areas including education, law, medicine, art, culture, public and military service, business, theology, athletics, and civil rights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in the City of Costa Mesa and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of the celebration in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and City.

DATED this fifteenth day of June 2021.



John B. Stephens, Mayor of City of Costa Mesa