



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

WHEREAS, more than two years would pass before the news reached Black Americans living in Texas, when on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was celebrated the following year and continues to be celebrated today, to acknowledge a period in our nation’s history that still shapes and influences our society, and to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olathe is committed to fostering a community that recognizes the value of each resident, that is strengthened by our diversity, and that celebrates the varied cultures and backgrounds that make up our great city.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bacon, Mayor of the City of Olathe, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 as

JUNETEENTH

in Olathe, urging all citizens to recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice, and to making Olathe a better place for all to call home.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Olathe to be affixed this 17th day of June, 2025.

John W. Bacon, Mayor

Brenda D. Swearingian, City Clerk