



**King County**

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# PROCLAMATION

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**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring those enslaved in the Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, freedom for many who were enslaved was delayed for two and half years after the Emancipation Proclamation until June 19, 1865, authorities reaching those enslaved in the South and Southwestern United States; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19 has the meaning of freedom and liberation from slavery to Black Americans; 'Juneteenth' combines the words June and Nineteenth and is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a time for celebration, prayer, and gathering of the community, and organizations have the common mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of Black history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth marks both the long, hard night of slavery and discrimination, and the promise of a brighter morning to come – together, we will lay the roots of real and lasting justice, so that we can become the extraordinary country that was promised to all Americans.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dow Constantine, King County Executive, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024 to be

## **Juneteenth**

in King County. I urge all citizens to become aware of the significance of this celebration in Black History and in the heritage of our nation and County.



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive