



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865 - nearly nine decades after our Nation's founding, and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received a proclamation from Major General Gordon Granger declaring that they were free from bondage; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1866 Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19, 2024 marks the 159<sup>th</sup> year which people have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1991 Florida has commemorated Juneteenth with Statute 683.21 and on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 President Biden signed into law the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act creating a federal holiday to commemorate Juneteenth; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the City of Key West added Juneteenth as an official day of observance and celebrates the growth of the United States as an international symbol of democracy with freedom and justice for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as

## JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

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Danise Henriquez, Mayor

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Aaron Castillo, Commissioner