

**PROCLAMATION**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH IN THE CITY OF BOWIE**

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;" and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln correctly believed slavery to be in violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and that its abolition represented a "new birth of freedom" for the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston, Texas and spread the word that slavery had been abolished, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued; and

**WHEREAS**, the following year, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas and have continued across the Nation for 155 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African-Americans have made, and continue to make, in the City of Bowie and across the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland hereby proclaims June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth in the City of Bowie and urges all citizens to join in this important celebration.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a Regular Meeting on June 7, 2021.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy J. Adams, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Awilda Hernandez, City Clerk