

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves to be free; and

WHEREAS, in Texas and throughout the South, Juneteenth celebrations began on June 19th of each year – consisting of prayer services, inspirational speeches, readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, food, games, and dances; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, during the 105th US Congress, House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution 11 were passed, officially recognizing Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and resolve of African-Americans throughout our history, and is an opportunity to highlight the value of African-American culture, art, history, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arlington is proud to recognize this significant and celebrated event and join those in our city, community, state and country in commemorating this One Hundred Fifty Year Anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Jeff Williams, Mayor of the City of Arlington, Texas, and on behalf of the Arlington City Council, do hereby proclaim the June 19, 2015 as

JUNETEENTH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 13th day of June in the year of Our Lord two thousand and fifteen.


MAYOR

