



PROCLAMATION

2024 Juneteenth Proclamation

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, 2 months after the end of the American Civil War, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation President Lincoln issued 2 years prior; and

WHEREAS, June 19th became known as Juneteenth, a day celebrating the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday, and recognition of this day reminds each of us of the promise of equality for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the city of St. Charles commemorates local Civil War Veteran Private John Maxon, who volunteered to join the only Black Civil war Regiment in Illinois, and after witnessing the events of June 19th in Galveston, moved to St. Charles, IL, remaining here for the rest of his life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lora Vitek, Mayor of the City of St. Charles, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, to be recognized as Juneteenth in St. Charles; a day to reflect on our nation's past, present, and future; celebrate the freedom, culture, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans to our nation; and honor equality and opportunity for all.



Lora A. Vitek