

# PROCLAMATION

## JUNETEENTH Annually on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865 Union Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the American Civil War had ended two and a half years prior with the signing of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 and that the enslaved are now free; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas was the last state to accept an "equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer"; and

**WHEREAS**, many former slaves left the plantations of Texas to embrace freedom and seek out family in Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America for President Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson overturned the order that had provided 40,000 freed men with 400,000 acres of land entitled to them and provided it to the very planters that had declared war on the United States years prior; and

**WHEREAS**, recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of June 19<sup>th</sup> was coined "Juneteenth" as a celebration for reassuring each other, for praying, for recounting the past, and for some an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston for that date; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth today, celebrates Black freedom and achievement; as it takes on a more national, symbolic, and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all roots tie back to that fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village of Oak Park supports the celebration of Juneteenth both financially and in spirit from this day forward, respect and appreciation for all our differences grow out of exposure and working together; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Anan Abu-Taleb, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim that the Village of Oak Park shall recognize June 19, 2020 and each year thereafter on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June as Juneteenth.

**ADOPTED** and **APPROVED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

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President Anan Abu-Taleb

ATTEST:

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Vicki Scaman, Village Clerk