

**City of San Rafael**  
**Proclamation in Recognition of**  
**JUNETEENTH**  
**June 19, 2024**

**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth, also known as “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day,” nationally celebrates the date in 1865 when the people of Galveston, Texas, were informed that two years prior, by Executive Order, all enslaved people in the United States were freed; and

**WHEREAS,** With the day originally celebrated in Texas on June 19, 1866, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and on June 17, 2021, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law, marking the date as a federal holiday; and

**WHEREAS,** To acknowledge and honor the individuals, families, and descendants of those who had been deprived of freedom, dignity, and opportunities, communities around the United States hold tributes, commemorations, festivals, and gatherings to reflect and remember this momentous and defining point in history; and

**WHEREAS,** The City acknowledges the individual and collective trauma inflicted upon enslaved persons and we remember and honor their resilience and strength to continue to move forward against adversity; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of San Rafael embraces diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and believes that all people are valued and welcomed, community members are encouraged to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history and development of the United States.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Rafael hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth, as an official holiday for the City of San Rafael in observance of the emancipation of enslaved persons in the United States and the City reaffirms its commitment to safeguard the civil rights, safety, and dignity of all its residents.



**Kate Colin**  
**Mayor**