

City of Petaluma Proclamation

JUNETEENTH – JUNE 19, 2024

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and a half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans and is called “JUNETEENTH” combining the words of June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks our country’s second independence day, and its historical legacy shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Kevin McDonnell, Mayor of Petaluma, along with members of the Petaluma City Council, do hereby declare June 19, 2023, as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Petaluma, California, and urge all residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.

Kevin McDonnell, Mayor

Caitlin Corley, City Clerk