



**PROCLAMATION
OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2021, AS**

“Juneteenth Freedom Day”

WHEREAS, After the Texas Revolution ended in 1836, the Constitution of the Republic of Texas legalized slavery and forbade any slave owner from freeing slaves, so by 1860, approximately 30.2 percent of the total Texas population were slaves; and

WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that between 1850 and 1865, roughly 10,000 enslaved people escaped bondage by crossing the Rio Grande River to Mexico, at times with the help of poor Tejanos; and

WHEREAS, On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves throughout the United States, yet slavery continued in Texas for 2.5 more years; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, federal authority was established in Texas when General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and proclaimed the end of slavery for 250,000 African Americans, as well as the end of the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-seven racist Jim Crow laws were passed in the Lone Star State between 1866 and 1958, and although African Americans were legally allowed to vote by 1870, their attempts to vote were often obstructed and suppressed by violence; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the efforts of State Representative Al Edwards, the Juneteenth Emancipation Day was declared an official state holiday in Texas by Governor William P. Clements on June 13, 1979; and

WHEREAS, Hays County pioneers like Nelvia Odoms Burluson, who in 1980 was presented the Juneteenth proclamation for the City of San Marcos; helped keep the spirit of Juneteenth community service alive; and

WHEREAS, For over a decade, 94-year-old Texan Opal Lee has led a tireless campaign to make Juneteenth a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, During this period of national reckoning, Juneteenth offers a time for reflection, rejoicing, and healing, by remembering those rendered invisible, including the 12 enslaved individuals originally brought from the Mississippi Moss plantation in 1853-1854, who were among 37 slaves documented in our region by 1860, and with whose labor the first homes of Dripping Springs were built.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS COUNCIL THAT:

1. Saturday the 19th day of June 2021 shall be celebrated as “Juneteenth Freedom Day” in the City of Dripping Springs; and
2. The City Council invites everyone to honor this significant date - the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in our nation - in recognition of a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.