

ORDINANCE NO. _____
CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all enslaved people in Secessionist Confederate States to be free, however in reality, many remained enslaved for two and a half more years; and

WHEREAS, on June 19th, 1865, the promise of freedom was officially fulfilled for the people of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on that date, after the arrival the previous day of Union troops, Major General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, informing the people of Texas that all enslaved people were now free; and

WHEREAS, in the previous month an army brigade made up of more than 1,000 African-descendant soldiers had captured Galveston, removed the rebel government and soldiers, and begun to spread the word of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of the 13th Amendment in December ended legalized enslavement in the United States in 1865; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been recognized as the oldest continuous celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

NOW THEREFORE, it has been determined that it is in the best interests of the City of Stamford to declare June 19th of each year a City holiday known as "Juneteenth."

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT Chapter 37 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances be added as follows:

Sec. 37-1. – Declaration of holiday.

The 19th of June of each year is declared a legal holiday in the City of Stamford, and only those city personnel actually necessary to maintain the good order of the city shall work on that day. If the 19th of June falls on a weekend, the holiday shall be celebrated on the following Monday.

Sec. 37-2. When effective.

This chapter shall take effect on adoption and shall be observed yearly.