

# Salt Lake County

## *Juneteenth Proclamation*

***WHEREAS on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and,***

***WHEREAS, President Lincoln correctly believed that slavery was a violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and that its abolition represented a “new birth of freedom” for the United States; and,***

***WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, U.S. Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, which informed the people of Texas that all enslaved people were now free. Union soldiers, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War was over and that the enslaved were now free; and,***

***WHEREAS, the following year, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas and have continued throughout the United States making it the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery; and,***

***WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations take place annually throughout Salt Lake County and the nation to include readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, prayer and worship services, cultural performances, community service events and other meaningful observances; and,***

***WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the benefits and promises of freedom, equality and opportunity that are at the core of being Americans.***

***THEREFORE, residents of Salt Lake County are encouraged to honor the great strides African Americans have made and to learn, unite and celebrate as we continue to work to create a more perfect and inclusive union***

*Mayor Wilson*

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*Council Member Stringham, Chair*

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*Council Member Theodore, Vice Chair*

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*Council Member Harrison*

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*Council Member Bradley*

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*Council Member Bradshaw*

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*Council Member Alvord*

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*Council Member Winder Newton*

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*Council Member Granato*

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*Council Member Stewart*

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