



**CITY OF ALBANY
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KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 3-20

June 17, 2020

Declaring Juneteenth a Holiday in the City of Albany

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared “that all persons held as slaves” within the Confederate states “are, and henceforward shall be free”; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, Union troops led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas, to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved Africans were now free; and

WHEREAS, upon his arrival in Texas, Major General Granger issued General Order Number 3 which stated “[t]he people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves.”; and

WHEREAS, June 19, or Juneteenth, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and celebrates African American freedom and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the vestiges of slavery and racism still permeate throughout the City of Albany, New York State, and the United States, and are represented in names of places and monuments; and

WHEREAS, no one should have to live in the shadows of their oppressors; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement challenges us to reexamine our core values as a city, state, and nation, and to ensure freedom, liberation, and justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is long overdue in confronting its history of racism and inequality, the origins of which may be traced back to the enslavement of African people by enslavers; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a holiday that has become increasingly recognized in our community and it is necessary for our entire City to be aware of the importance of this holiday to our Black neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth will be a holiday in the City of Albany as a testament to freedom, liberation, and justice, and a day where Black life, Black history, and Black culture is honored and celebrated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor of the City of Albany, by the authority vested in me by the charter and laws of the City of Albany, do hereby order:

Section 1. Declaration of June 19, "Juneteenth," as a holiday in the City of Albany

- a. In order to celebrate and commemorate Juneteenth, the Department of Administrative Services is directed to take all necessary steps to provide City employees with one (1) additional floating holiday in accordance with the City's Policies and Procedures Manual to be used any time during the 2020 calendar year.

Section 2. Effective Date

- b. This Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Albany to be affixed this 17th day of June, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kathy M. Sheehan".

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James H. [unclear]".

WITNESS