



## Juneteenth Proclamation

**Whereas**, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when enslaved African Americans in Galveston Texas, learned of their freedom, more than two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

**Whereas**, communities across the nation observe Juneteenth through education, reflection, service, cultural celebrations, and dialogue that foster understanding and unity; and

**Whereas**, while significant progress has been made since the abolition of slavery, Black Americans continue to face inequities, discrimination, and systemic barriers, and Juneteenth serves as both a recognition of those ongoing challenges and a celebration of the resilience, strength, and lasting contributions of Black communities throughout our nation; and

**Whereas**, Juneteenth reminds us of the importance of continuing to build a community rooted in dignity, respect, fairness, and belonging for every individual; and

**Whereas**, this year's Juneteenth theme, "Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Inspiring the Future," recognizes the importance of reflecting on our nation's history, supporting and uplifting Black communities today, and continuing to build a more equitable, inclusive, and hopeful future for generations to come; and

**Whereas**, the Town of Erie encourages residents to learn about the significance of Juneteenth and to reflect on the ongoing work of advancing equity, understanding, and justice within our community and belonging; and

**Whereas**, Juneteenth traces its origins to the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and the eventual enforcement of freedom for enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865, and was later formally recognized as a federal holiday through the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. in 2021; and

**Now, therefore**, the Town Council does hereby proclaim that Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 19, 2026, and calls upon all residents in the Town of Erie to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

**Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.**

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Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

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Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk