



Juneteenth Proclamation

Whereas, Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, marks the historic date in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received the news of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

Whereas, Juneteenth serves as a powerful reminder of the long journey towards equality and justice for all African Americans, as well as a time to reflect on the painful legacy of slavery and the systemic racism that continues to affect our society; and

Whereas, this day commemorates the resilience, strength, and contributions of the African American community throughout history, while also recognizing the ongoing struggle for civil rights and equity; and

Whereas, Juneteenth encourages conversations about the significance of freedom, self-determination, and respect for diversity, and calls upon all individuals to reaffirm their commitment to understanding and addressing the issues of racial injustice and inequality; and

Whereas, this year's theme, "A Reckoning: Reclaiming the Past, Remembering Black Voices, and Reshaping the Future" centers on reflection, reconciliation, and reshaping the future through a deeper understanding of American history's complexities; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law establishing June 19 as a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States and symbolizing the importance of this day in our nation's history and its significance in the ongoing pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

Now, therefore, I, Council Member John Mortellaro on behalf of Mayor Andrew J. Moore, do hereby proclaim that Juneteenth be celebrated on June 19, 2025, and I ask all residents in the Town of Erie to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2025.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk