

*Office of the Mayor*

CITY OF MANITOWOC

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, slaves were not set free in the Confederacy until the Union army arrived in Galveston, Texas, and on June 19<sup>th</sup>, General Gordon Granger announced that the slaves in Texas were free by order of the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, June 19<sup>th</sup> has a special meaning to African Americans, and is called “Juneteenth” combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation, and there is currently a movement to have Juneteenth recognized on a national level since it is the oldest known holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an opportunity to not only celebrate but also to speak out against inequalities that endure today; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the lives and contributions of unsung African Americans, and celebrate the resiliency and the vibrancy of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement – it is a time for reflection and rejoicing – it is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future, signifying a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manitowoc is proud that Congress approved today as a Federal National Holiday and President Joe Biden signed it into law on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc hereby proclaim and recognize June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as

## Juneteenth

in the City of Manitowoc and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and City.

**In Testimony Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Manitowoc to be affixed. Done at City Hall in the City of Manitowoc this **19<sup>th</sup> day of June, Twenty-Three.**

  
Justin M. Nickels, Mayor