



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, and Dover recognizes both its historic significance and its own longstanding involvement in the cause of emancipation, with an anti-slavery movement beginning in the 1830s, thirty years before slavery's actual abolishment in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1833, *The Morning Star* moved to Dover, New Hampshire, becoming the City's first anti-slavery newspaper; and
- WHEREAS:** Dover was the first New Hampshire city to send to the state Legislature, members who espoused strong anti-slavery sentiment. And at the federal level, Dover's John Parker Hale would become the first anti-slavery Senator elected to Congress; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the strong anti-slavery sentiment noted in Dover's history and the prominence of Dover citizens in advocating for the abolishment of slavery, census and other written records from the time indicate that there may have been persons in certain Dover households that remained enslaved; and
- WHEREAS:** On June 26, 1857, an act entitled "An act to secure the freedom and rights of citizenship to persons in this State" was passed in New Hampshire, making it a crime to hold slaves and further stating: "That neither descent, near or remote, from a person of African blood . . . nor color of skin, shall disqualify any person from becoming a citizen of this State, or deprive such person of the full rights and privileges of a citizen thereof" and
- WHEREAS:** In 1861, the New Hampshire Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the 1857 act; and
- WHEREAS:** After years of being one of the only remaining states that did not recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu signed a bill proclaiming an annual observance of the day as an officially recognized state holiday, which statute is now codified as RSA 4:13-aa; and
- WHEREAS:** Even though it is joyously celebrated, Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the grief and anguish our nation has experienced over the lives lost and the dreams destroyed by acts of racially motivated violence, abuses of power, and injustice; and
- WHEREAS:** We must all remember this day as a solemn reminder that words alone cannot deliver on the promises of freedom, individual rights, and equal justice for all. Although our nation has come a long way from our history of state-sanctioned slavery and segregation, our work remains unfinished; and
- WHEREAS:** Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT CARRIER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND THE ENTIRE DOVER CITY COUNCIL DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2024 as

JUNETEENTH DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Dover to be affixed this 12th Day of June, 2024

Robert Carrier, Mayor,
City of Dover, New Hampshire