



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union troops announced the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas — freeing all enslaved people — more than two months after the Civil War ended, and more than two years after the Proclamation was issued; and
- WHEREAS:** Dover recognizes Juneteenth's historic significance and our city's longstanding involvement in the cause of emancipation, with its anti-slavery movement beginning in the 1830s, thirty years before slavery's nationwide abolishment; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1833, *The Morning Star* moved to Dover from Maine, and in 1834 with its new editor William Burr, became the city's first anti-slavery newspaper; and
- WHEREAS:** Dover was the first New Hampshire city to elect state legislators who espoused strong anti-slavery sentiment, and at the federal level, Dover's John Parker Hale became the first openly anti-slavery elected U.S. Congressman and Senator; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite Dover's anti-slavery activism, census and other records indicate that enslaved individuals remained in some Dover households;
- WHEREAS:** On June 26, 1857, in response to the Dred Scott decision, the state legislature passed "An act to secure freedom and the rights of citizenship to persons in this State," affirming that neither skin color nor African descent would disqualify any person from "the full rights and privileges of a citizen," including "the right of suffrage;" and
- WHEREAS:** In addition to celebrating slavery's end, Juneteenth is a time to reflect on the grief and anguish caused by racially motivated violence, systemic injustice, and abuses of power; and
- WHEREAS:** We remember this day as a solemn reminder that words alone cannot fulfill the promises of freedom, individual rights, and equal justice for all — and though progress has been made, our work remains unfinished; and
- WHEREAS:** Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DENNIS SHANAHAN, DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND THE ENTIRE DOVER CITY COUNCIL DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2025 as

JUNETEENTH DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Dover to be affixed this **11th Day of June, 2025**

Robert Carrier, Mayor
City of Dover, New Hampshire