

Office of the MAYOR

CITY OF GROTON
CONNECTICUT

Proclamation

Juneteenth Independence Day

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a cultural observance celebrated by African Americans commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth was celebrated June 19, 1865 in the State of Texas after Union soldiers arrived in Galveston with news that the Civil War had ended two and half years earlier and that the enslaved were now freed; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863, had little impact on the citizens of Texas because of the minimal number of Union soldiers to enforce the Executive . . . *an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves*; and

WHEREAS, the June 19 celebration later became known as *Juneteenth* – a time for reassuring each other, for praying, and for gathering remaining family members.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Hedrick, urge the citizens of City of Groton to join together in “Observing the historical significance of “*JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY*” in America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City to be affixed this 15th day of June 2024.




Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton