

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, historically Juneteenth was widely celebrated in the African American community as Emancipation Day, commemorating the day in 1865 when a Union Army general arrived in Galveston, Texas to share the news that the Civil War had ended and to announce the enslaved African Americans living there were free; and

WHEREAS, in recent years awareness of the significance of this date for our nation's African American and Black communities has become more widespread, resulting in Juneteenth becoming a recognized state and federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth reminds us of the horrors of our country's past, commemorates African American freedom, acknowledges the resilience and determination of African Americans who have faced injustices in our society, and pays homage to those who paved the road to freedom in America; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day to recognize and honor the contributions of African Americans in our city, state and country; and

WHEREAS, now is a time to reflect on the progress that must continue to ensure that all have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in our society; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, picnics, and family gatherings, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement and planning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Hedrick, urge the citizens of the 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 affixed the Official Seal of the City of Groton, this sixteenth day of June, 2025.

Keith Hedrick, Mayor, City of Groton