



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: The United States of America is a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and the Civil War was fought to ensure that freedom would be shared by all; and

WHEREAS: On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to the enslaved people in the rebelling states; and

WHEREAS: Freedom became a reality much later for enslaved Black people in Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth marks our country's second Independence Day, celebrating freedom and justice and emphasizing education, achievement, and tolerance; and

WHEREAS: African Americans have made significant contributions to Minnesota's culture, and economy; and

WHEREAS: This year's Juneteenth celebration is of significance as we recognize the 100th commemoration of the lynching of Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie on June 15, 1920 in Duluth; and coincides with the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man on May 25, 2020, which sparked protests against police brutality and racism around the world; and

WHEREAS: We must do everything in our power to come together to deconstruct generations of systemic racism in our state so that every person in Minnesota – Black, Indigenous, Brown, and White – can be safe and thrive; and

WHEREAS: While Minnesota law recognizes the third Saturday of June as Juneteenth, we must acknowledge the relevance of June 19, 1865 and celebrate every June 19 as Juneteenth Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS: Communities throughout Minnesota and the United States unite on this day to honor freedom and the commitment for everyone to work together to guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2020 as:

## JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be  
affixed at the State Capitol this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim J. Walz".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Simon".

SECRETARY OF STATE