



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

Executive Order

2023-1

June 15, 2023

Executive Order Recognizing Juneteenth

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston, TX and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree, marking the end of the civil War and the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day, began as a holiday in the State of Texas, and is now celebrated across the country as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth would not be possible if it were not for the courage, resilience, and determination of former slaves who relentlessly fought for their freedom and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a recognized federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as a reminder to all Americans about the horrors of slavery, celebrates the emancipation of all slaves in the United States, and provides a forum for open and honest dialogue around what measures are still needed in order to ensure equality and opportunity for the African-American community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Brett P. Smiley, Mayor of the City of Providence, hereby recognize June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth, which shall be a holiday for City of Providence employees, who if not required to work, shall be entitled to leave at full pay without charge to existing accruals and for essential public safety employees who are regularly scheduled to work and not already receiving overtime, they shall receive holiday pay consistent with their respective collective bargaining agreement.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and will remain in full effect for one year while the Administration works with the Providence City Council to observe this holiday in perpetuity.

So Ordered:


Brett P. Smiley, Mayor