



GAINESVILLE

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Hall County Black History Society is committed to its mission of identifying, collecting, preserving, publishing, and displaying data and artifacts of Black Americans of Gainesville and Hall County that are historically significant for the purpose of educating the public; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America was born on July 4th, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22nd, 1862, declaring that on January 1, 1863 "all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free," paving the way for the passing and ratification of the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced to authorities and Black Americans in the South and Southwestern United States the end of both the Civil War and slavery; and

WHEREAS, General Granger's announcement reads in part: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves"; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to Black Americans and is called JUNETEENTH, combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the Black American community for over 150 years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Sam Couvillon, Mayor, along with the Gainesville City Council and the Hall County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 19th to be

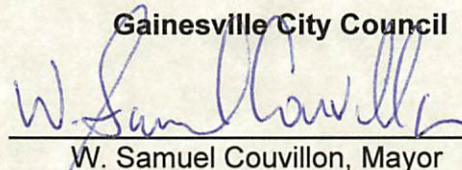
"JUNETEENTH"

We encourage all citizens to observe and celebrate the achievements of Black Americans and recognize their important contributions to our community.

Hall County Board of Commissioners

Richard Higgins, Chairman

Gainesville City Council



W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

