

# Town of Lincoln

## Lincoln Town Offices

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Select Board  
Jonathan Dwyer, Chair  
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## Juneteenth Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, our country is made up of people from every nation on earth, who are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

*WHEREAS*, our nation was conceived on July 4, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, the classic statement being: *"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*, at 2:00 p.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State *"shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;"* and

*WHEREAS*, the Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery a Union war aim and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four million slaves as the Union armies advanced; and

*WHEREAS*, hearing of the Proclamation, many slaves escaped to Union lines as the army units moved south; and

*WHEREAS*, on June 19, 1865, almost 2 1/2 years later, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery, with this announcement: *"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 the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere"*; and

*WHEREAS*, Texans began the celebration of Juneteenth in 1866, with community events such as parades, cookouts, prayer gatherings, musical performances, and historical cultural readings; some communities purchased land for Juneteenth celebrations, such as Emancipation Park in Houston, TX; and as freed families emigrated from Texas to other parts of the United States, they carried the Juneteenth celebration with them; and first state to grant this emancipation celebration; and

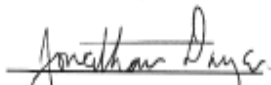
*WHEREAS*, Al Edwards, a freshman state representative, put forward the bill, H.B. 1016, in 1979 making Texas the first state to grant this emancipation celebration; and

*WHEREAS*, on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday; and

*WHEREAS*, since then 45 other states, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia have also declared it an official holiday.

*NOW THEREFORE*, we, the Lincoln Select Board, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 and each June 19<sup>th</sup> hereafter as Juneteenth in Lincoln, to be celebrated at 4:00 pm by vigorous ringing of bells throughout the community, if practical.

Voted this 7th day of June 2021.

  
Jonathan Dwyer, Chair

  
James Craig

  
Jennifer Glass