

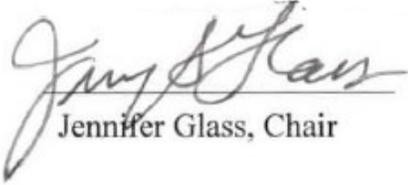
Juneteenth Proclamation 2025

- WHEREAS, we acknowledge that slavery was legal in Massachusetts until 1783 when Elizabeth Freeman (aka Mum Bett) and Quock Walker successfully utilized the Commonwealth's legal system to secure their individual freedom and to stop slavery in the state, and
- WHEREAS, we acknowledge that enslaved people lived in Lincoln, and that residents of Lincoln owned slaves and personally benefitted from the institution of slavery, and
- WHEREAS, slavery was in contradiction with the Declaration of Independence, which stated: "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, slavery continued to exist in areas of the country still under Confederate control, and
- WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, almost 2 1/2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, 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 on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday; and
- WHEREAS, in 2021 President Biden signed bipartisan legislation declaring June 19th as a Federal Holiday celebrating Juneteenth and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is one of 18 states that observe Juneteenth as a state holiday, and

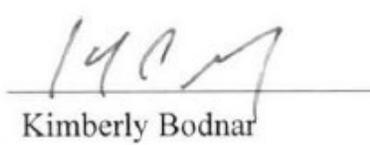
WHEREAS, we dedicate ourselves to using our voices and resources to protect the rights of all residents, students, employees, and visitors to participate fully in the life of our community,

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Lincoln Select Board, do hereby reaffirm and proclaim June 19, 2025, and each June 19th hereafter as Juneteenth in Lincoln, to be celebrated at 4:00 pm by vigorous ringing of bells throughout the community, if practical.

Voted this 2nd day of June 2025.



Jennifer Glass, Chair



Kimberly Bodnar



James Hutchinson