



A PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA
In Recognition of Juneteenth
June 19, 2025

Whereas, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is celebrated each year on June 19th in the United States to commemorate the end of slavery; and

Whereas, through the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves; and

Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law, which established Juneteenth as an official federal holiday; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna approved the observance of Juneteenth as an official city holiday in 2022. In recognizing the holiday of Juneteenth in the City of Smyrna, we acknowledge the challenges, successes, tribulations, and perseverance of all those who lived during these periods in our history; and

Whereas, the City of Smyrna will host its Inaugural Juneteenth Festival on June 19, 2025, a community-wide celebration that honors the significance of this day through fellowship, education, music, and cultural expression; NOW

Therefore, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth in the City of Smyrna and encourage the community to join the commitment for anti-racism, racial and social justice, by encouraging a day of reflection, recognition, acknowledgment, and healing.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 16th day of June 2025 in the year of Our Lord



Mayor

Derek Norton

