

CITY OF WHITE SALMON

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06-566

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2023, AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day on June 19, 1865, when African slaves in Texas were told by Major General Gordon Granger that their 246 years of slavery had ended; and

WHEREAS, the abolishment of slavery throughout the U.S. had actually taken place some two and a half years earlier when President Abraham Lincoln enacted the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but resistance to his Executive Order and continued conflict significantly delayed the freedom of slaves; and

WHEREAS, a year after Major Granger's announcement, on June 19, 1866, the freed African American men and women in Texas held the first "Juneteenth" or African American Independence Day celebration, which would later spread to all corners of the country; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States and 42 states, including Washington State, have recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday or holiday observance since 1979; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon recognizes the history of African-Americans, the obstacles African Americans have and continue to face, and values their heritage, culture, and contributions to society; and


WHEREAS, in the spirit of this 158th Anniversary of Juneteenth, let us all be reminded that this celebration is also an opportunity to educate all people, and reflect on our history; and

WHEREAS, the City of White Salmon strives to be a safe and inclusive and welcoming community for all, choosing to willingly engage in difficult conversations, participate in active listening about institutional racism, and taking action to address bias and injustice within our own systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of White Salmon Mayor and City Council do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Independence Day in the City of White Salmon. All residents and visitors are welcome to join the City of White Salmon Government in celebrating Juneteenth and urge all people to embrace the occasion and pause to reflect on the privileges of freedom.

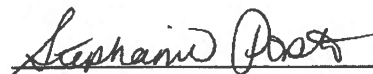
PASSED by the City Council of the City of White Salmon, Washington. Dated this 7th day of June, 2023.

CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WASHINGTON



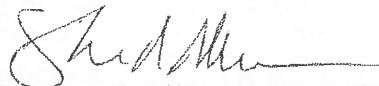
Jason Hartmann, Mayor Pro Temp

ATTEST:



Stephanie Porter, Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney