



## A Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, 2020 is the 155<sup>th</sup> year of Juneteenth Freedom Day, a nationally recognized day which celebrates the rich culture, legacy and heritage of African-Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States, dating back to June 19, 1865 when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war was ended, freeing the enslaved; and

**WHEREAS**, this was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which became official January 1, 1863; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Juneteenth Freedom Day celebrates African-American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, as it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, to ensure the events of 1865 are not forgotten; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 Massachusetts became the 25<sup>th</sup> state to recognize Juneteenth Freedom Day with the firm understanding and realization that all cultures share a common respect for freedom.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved** that I, Gary Christenson, Mayor do hereby proclaim that that every **June 19<sup>th</sup> will forever more** be celebrated as **Juneteenth Freedom Day** in **Malden, Massachusetts**. We strongly urge all residents of the City to recognize and celebrate annually this nationally recognized commemoration which honors the history, legacy and culture of African-Americans throughout our City.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the City of Malden this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year two thousand twenty to be affixed.

**GARY CHRISTENSON**, Mayor