



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, 2021 is the 156th 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 19th, 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 on January 1st, 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 25th state to recognize Juneteenth Freedom Day and in 2020 made Juneteenth a state holiday with the firm understanding and realization that all cultures share a common respect for freedom; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the City of Malden proclaimed that every June 19th would be celebrated as Juneteenth Freedom Day in Malden; and

WHEREAS, on June 17th, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation establishing June 19th as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a United States federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Gary Christenson, Mayor do hereby proclaim that today be celebrated as **Juneteenth Freedom Day** in the City of **Malden**.

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





GARY CHRISTENSON, Mayor