

**Office of the Mayor
Township of Bordentown
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, our great Nation was conceived on July 4, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence; and at 2:00 p.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers, President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing all persons held as slaves within any State or any part of a State "**shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;**" and

WHEREAS, in June of 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union Army Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the end of the both the Civil War and slavery; announcing that all enslaved people and their descendants are free Americans are free with absolute equality of personal rights and rights to property; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 Texas declared Juneteenth as a State holiday and in 2020 New Jersey declared Juneteenth a State holiday; and

WHEREAS, "Juneteenth" is a combination of "June and nineteenth" and is a 155-year-old holiday celebrating the emancipation of African-Americans from slavery in the United States and to celebrate and honor the numerous contributions that African-Americans have made to society as a whole; and


WHEREAS, Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day celebrating all of the people who had been enslaved in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the colors associated with this holiday are red, white and blue, the same as the United States Flag, representing the formerly enslaved people and their descendants are true Americans; and

WHEREAS, Bordentown Township encourages everyone to observe Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect, rejoice and plan for a brighter future as we continue to address racial injustices in our society today.

I, THEREFORE, Mayor, of the Township of Bordentown, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 18, 2021 as Juneteenth Day commemorating the African-Americans freedom from slavery and recognizing that all men are created equal and "**deserving of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness**".




STEVE BENOWITZ
MAYOR