

**Kaylin Clement**  
Assistant City Administrator

651.204.6013 Phone  
651.204.6113 Fax  
kaylin.clement@cityvadnaisheights.com



## *Memorandum:*

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council Members

FROM: Kaylin Clement, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: June 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Proclamation Observing June 19 as Juneteenth

### **Recommended Action**

Adopt proclamation observing June 19 as Juneteenth.

### **Background**

A bill to establish Juneteenth as a state-recognized holiday was passed off the Senate floor on January 26, 2023, with a vote of 57-8. On February 2, 2023, it was passed by the House by a vote of 126-1 and signed into law by Gov. Tim Walz. The new law was set to go into effect on August 1, 2023, however, a provision contained in HF 1830 (Rep. Ginny Klevorn, DFL-Plymouth/Sen. Samakab Hussein, DFL-St. Paul), the state and local government omnibus bill, changes the effective date to make the new holiday effective before June 19 of this year, requiring that the day be observed. Juneteenth is significant as it is the date on which slavery was abolished in the United States.

Public business cannot not be conducted on June 19 in observance of the holiday, adding to the existing days already observed by the City of Vadnais Heights below:

- New Years Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth (*new*)
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day

**Attached:** Proclamation Observing June 19 as Juneteenth in the City of Vadnais Heights

**CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
PROCLAMATION  
RECOGNIZING JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH**

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America is a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to enslaved people in rebelling states; and

**WHEREAS**, the news of the Civil War's end didn't reach frontier areas of the United States until nearly two years later; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans who had been slaves celebrated June 19, 1865, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day". This day, the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, has become a day for African Americans to celebrate not only their freedom, but their history, culture and achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Vadnais Heights recognizes the importance of standing for the values of social equity, inclusion, and justice, and is dedicated to being a supportive and united community, strengthened by the diversity of our residents and visitors; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Mike Krachmer, Mayor of Vadnais Heights, do hereby proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota. Let Juneteenth serve as a reminder to recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality and justice, as we celebrate the centuries of struggles, courage and hope that has led us to this time of progress and possibility.

---

Mike Krachmer, Mayor

Attested by:

---

Kevin Watson, City Administrator