



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, slaves in Texas first heard the news of their freedom, nearly two years *after* President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary proclamation abolishing slavery through the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, when these slaves heard the news in the middle of June, they alternately sang, danced and prayed because there was much rejoicing and jubilation that their life-long prayers had finally been answered; and

WHEREAS, the founders of the City of Appleton fought for freedom of all Americans in the Civil War on behalf of the Union, and former slaves who fought in the Civil War with them settled in Appleton after that war to achieve freedom here; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton recognizes that its diversity is its strength, and we hope to honor it by recognizing the value African Americans and Black community members add to Appleton; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the leaders of African Heritage, Inc., for their extemporary dedication to serving Appleton and the Fox Cities promoting educational and cultural exchanges between Africans, African Americans, Blacks, people of African descent and all people who have an interest in Black issues; and

WHEREAS, it is our great honor to commemorate this collaborative celebratory event with leadership and resources provided by the City of Appleton and African Heritage, Inc., supported through the sponsorship of numerous businesses and organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, TIMOTHY M. HANNA, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 19, 2016 as

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY

in Appleton and encourage all citizens to join in the commemoration and celebration of this historic event.

Signed and sealed this 19th day of June, 2016.


TIMOTHY M. HANNA
MAYOR OF APPLETON

