

Travis County Commissioners Court

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in Texas;

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was effective January 1, 1863, Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas and proclaimed that the war had ended and slaves were free;

WHEREAS, Attempts to explain this two-and-a-half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions handed down through the years. On one hand, it's reported that the news was deliberately withheld by slave owners to maintain the labor force on plantations. On the other hand, it's said that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest;

WHEREAS, The reaction to this history-making news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. Even with nowhere to go, many slaves felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom;

WHEREAS, Many slaves left in search of family members with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a new hope in their hearts. As Blacks were freed, they began a long struggle to gain equal rights as American citizens;

WHEREAS, While this might seem like ancient history, echoes of the Juneteenth story resonate in the struggle to gain equal rights continue today;

WHEREAS, Travis County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe and Precinct One Commissioner Ron Davis are proud to host the 25th Annual Travis County Employees “Juneteenth – Emancipation Day” celebration on Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 316 West 8th Street, street level parking garage on the northwest corner of 8th and Lavaca, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;

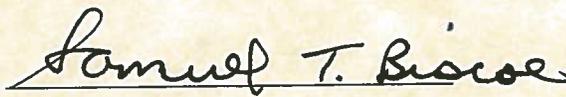
WHEREAS, This 25th anniversary celebration commemorates a quarter-century of remembering and sharing African-American culture, expressing pride in our heritage and recognizing our many talents and lofty contributions to America and the world; and

WHEREAS, Especially this year, Juneteenth should remind all of us to continue to strive to replace violence with peace, hatred with love, intolerance with diversity appreciation, and bigotry with respect for all men and women.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2014 AS

“JUNETEENTH – TEXAS EMANCIPATION DAY”

IN TRAVIS COUNTY; AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO ATTEND “JUNETEENTH” FESTIVITIES AND SUPPORT THE NOBLE PURPOSE OF EMANCIPATION DAY.



SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner Pct. 1

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET GOMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4