



Town of Orono

PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH IN ORONO

WHEREAS, this nation was founded on the principle stated in the Declaration of Independence that “*all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*” but in which people who were Black were held in slavery for eight-seven years hence; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which holds that all persons held as slaves within a State or designated part of a State “*shall be then, thenceforward, forever free,*” changing the legal status of 3.5 million enslaved people who were Black from slave to free; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, news of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the most distant slave states until two-and-one-half years later, being read in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th, 1865; and

WHEREAS, the day of respect and remembrance called “Juneteenth,” a combination of the words “June” and “nineteenth”, is observed as an important day in our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, since 2011 the State of Maine is one of forty-seven States and the District of Columbia that recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or day of observance; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom while also serving as a reminder of the inequities faced by people who are Black throughout our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, Orono strives to be a community of people who do not look away from historical truths and who are committed to addressing ongoing inequities faced by people in Maine and the United States who are Black; and

Now, Therefore, I, Thomas Perry, on behalf of the Orono Town Council, do hereby proclaim June 19th as Juneteenth in the Town of Orono, and urge all community members to work together to advance the principles of equal rights, justice, and opportunity for all of their fellow citizens regardless of race, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.

Given this the 10th day of May, 2021.

Attest: _____
Shelly J. Crosby
Town Clerk

Signed: _____
Tomas H. Perry
Council Chair