

**Town of Upper Marlboro
Board of Town Commissioners**

Proclamation

In Recognition of Juneteenth, June 2022



WHEREAS, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1619; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the enslaved people in the South. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the president's order, freeing the enslaved two and a half years after it was first decreed. This day has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, initially a regional celebration popular in Texas and neighboring states which brought remaining family members together who had resettled after June 19th, 1865, Juneteenth grew to become a national event during which African American communities gathered to share in the spirit of the day, featuring outdoor activities, food, prayer services; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations declined in the early 20th century, the result of educational focus which emphasized the Emancipation Proclamation, shifts in the workforce due to the Great Depression, and popularity of the July 4th holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement spurred a resurgence of Juneteenth, leading to the state of Texas declaring it an official state holiday in 1980, and continued to grow as an important national and local celebration of African American freedom, culture, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Upper Marlboro recognizes the history of racism in our country and how it has led to many current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing; and healthcare, as well as well as disproportionate incarceration rates for black people.

THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed that The Town of Upper Marlboro do, hereby proclaim, June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth to acknowledge the historical significance of the day and recommit the Town to working toward the dismantling of racism. Signed this 26th day of July, 2022





Sarah Franklin, President / Mayor



Charles Colbert, Commissioner



Janice Duckett, Commissioner



Thomas Hanchett, Commissioner



Karen Lott, Commissioner