

PROCLAMATION

IN HONOR OF JUNETEENTH 2021

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is often referred to as our country's second independence day and has long been celebrated among the African American community, its historical significance has largely been omitted from our classrooms, making it relatively unknown to the larger community; and

WHEREAS, despite the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln and passage of the 13th Amendment by the U.S. Congress, more than 250,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants remained in bondage in the State of Texas until the arrival of Union troops at Galveston on the 19th day of June, 1865; and

WHEREAS, when the news of their emancipation spread, following the reading of "General Order Number Three" by Major General Gordon Granger, the formerly enslaved people of Texas reacted with joyous celebrations, launching what would become an annual event known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, early celebrations of Juneteenth consisted of family and community gatherings filled not only with special food and festivities but also prayer, reflection and respect for ancestors who suffered under slavery; and

WHEREAS the observance of Juneteenth evolved over time, leading up to January 1, 1980 when Texas became the first state in the nation to formally establish Juneteenth as an official holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations continue to grow within communities and organizations throughout the country, helping to promote knowledge and appreciation of African American history, resilience, family, community and culture; and

WHEREAS, on June 18th, 2020 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-47 affirming the City's commitment to stand in solidarity with the Black community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Brisbane hereby proclaim Saturday, June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth and encourage all community members to observe this day with activities and reflections on freedom and justice.

Dated: June 17, 2021



Karen Cunningham, Mayor