

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**CITY OF**

**DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS**

- WHEREAS,** *in June, we celebrate Juneteenth, a day designated to commemorate the freeing of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants. It has historically been a time of prayer, reflection, and family reunion in the United States; and*
- WHEREAS,** *on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Lincoln over two and a half years prior and freed all remaining enslaved people in Texas; and*
- WHEREAS,** *on this historic holiday, we must remember the sacrifice of all enslaved people who fought for their freedom and all the individuals who used their freedom to fight and end slavery; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the City of Des Plaines is happy to join our country in recognizing Juneteenth to encourage and strengthen the solidarity and bravery that helped African Americans escape slavery and maintain their dignity; and*
- WHEREAS,** *we acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to the City of Des Plaines and urge all residents to explore this important celebration of African American culture, history and pride, and may this day remind us of the promise of freedom and equality.*

*Now, therefore, I, ANDREW GOCZKOWSKI, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES PLAINES, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as*

**JUNETEENTH DAY**

*Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023*



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*Andrew Goczkowski, Mayor*