



WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that as of January 1, 1863, all slaves in the rebellious states would be thenceforward and forever free; and,

WHEREAS, it took almost three more years of conflict and loss to bring about the end of the Civil War. In December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was nationally ratified to end the sanctioned institution of slavery; and,

WHEREAS, the news of freedom disseminated gradually throughout the nation; on June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers, led by General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No.3 announcing freedom to some of the last slaves in America; and,

WHEREAS, on this anniversary each year, African American Cultural Society leaders and individuals throughout the city and our nation celebrate African American heritage, history, freedom, and culture with events and ceremonies that reflect the power of community, family, art, and tradition in the face of oppression. On June 18, we raise the Juneteenth flag, which is a symbol that gives all Americans the opportunity to recognize American freedom & African American History. On June 17, 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act making June 19 a Federal holiday; and,

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth Torchlight Parade will be at 6 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Thurman Bill Bartie, Mayor of Port Arthur, Texas, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2022, as:

“Juneteenth Celebration Day”

Theme: “Honor Thy Father”

in the city of Port Arthur and encourage all people to observe Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect, rejoice and plan for a brighter future as we continue to address racial injustices in our society today.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Port Arthur to be affixed this 24th day of May in the year of our Lord, 2022.

Thurman Bill Bartie, Mayor