

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."; and*

WHEREAS, *more than two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed; and*

WHEREAS, *the term Juneteenth is derived from a blend of words using the month of June and the date of the nineteenth. Juneteenth honors the end of slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021; and*

WHEREAS, *our country is made up of people from every nation who helped to create the country that we celebrate today, and where all are declared equal not only in freedom but also in justice. By celebrating Juneteenth, African Americans share the pride of their rich history and culture. As we all celebrate our history going forward, slavery is eliminated, but our past will never be forgotten;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS P. MCNAMARA, as Mayor of the city of Rockford, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026 to be:

"JUNETEENTH"

in Rockford, Illinois, and encourage all citizens to join me in acknowledging the presence and unique contributions of all African American citizens in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 15th day of June 2026.


MAYOR THOMAS P. MCNAMARA
CITY OF ROCKFORD

