



SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Snohomish County, Washington

PROCLAMATION

**RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2022, AS JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which declared “that all persons held as slaves” within Confederate territories were legally freed, paving the way to the passage of the 13th Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, notice of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed, finally reaching authorities and enslaved people in the South and Southwest over two years after the signing; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day on June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Texas were informed of General Order No. 3 by General Gordon Granger that slavery was abolished and they were free; and

WHEREAS, enslaved people left a legacy of determination, strength, heroism, hope, and resistance. Juneteenth is a time for all people to honor and celebrate the day when enslaved people were freed from the chains of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates emancipation from slavery and is a reminder of the hope in the common struggle for legal, social, and economic equality for all; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day for descendants of enslaved people and slave-owners, as well as all other lovers of liberty, to reflect upon ways in which Black Americans helped build this nation, brick-by-brick and field-after-field, even when they were denied rights, liberty, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day for all Snohomish County residents to reflect on the horrors of slavery, to acknowledge the evils of hate, racism, violence, discrimination, and injustice; and to commit to being unwavering allies to Black and African American people living, working, and playing in our community; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County values the numerous contributions Black and African American people have made to our nation and local community through sharing their history, heritage, culture, and talents; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Juneteenth and the many contributions Black and African American people have made, the Washington Legislature passed a measure in the 2021 legislative session making Juneteenth a legal state holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVE SOMERS, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth in Snohomish County.

FURTHERMORE, please join Snohomish County Government in celebrating Juneteenth by joining Artists in Activism, Black Heritage Committee, Change the Narrative, Communities of Color Coalition (C3), LEVL, and Snohomish County NAACP’s events being held in celebration of Juneteenth.

SIGNED this 13th day of June 2022.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive