



Incorporated 1897

# Borough of Chatham

BOROUGH HALL

54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE • CHATHAM • NEW JERSEY 07928

## *Mayor's Proclamation*

### **DECLARING JUNE 19, 2021 AS A DAY OF CELEBRATION, REFLECTION, AND SERVICE IN RECOGNITION OF "JUNETEENTH", THE NEW FEDERAL HOLIDAY MARKING AMERICA'S TRUE END OF SLAVERY ON JUNE 19, 1865**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;" and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, signed on September 22, 1862, became effective on January 1, 1863, thereby freeing slaves of this nation's original sin of human bondage throughout much of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Union General Gordon Granger was dispatched to Galveston, Texas to announce the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and on June 19, 1865 declared the freedom of slaves still held in human bondage in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, has been celebrated by the African-American community since 1866, and since that time has become widely recognized as an important day of commemoration, and for honoring the history and contributions of African-Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2020, the New Jersey Legislature enacted S19, which declares Juneteenth to be an official state holiday in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, enshrining June 19 as the national day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham Borough Governing Body believes that it is right and fitting that its residents celebrate Juneteenth with their families and reflect upon the sacrifices made by America's enslaved persons and their descendants in the continuous quest for human freedom and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body further believes it appropriate that Chatham residents use Juneteenth as a day for service to benefit our fellow citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Thaddeus J. Kobylarz, Mayor of the Borough of Chatham, on behalf of myself and the Chatham Borough Council, do hereby declare June 19, 2021 as a day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that I, Thaddeus J. Kobylarz, Mayor of the Borough of Chatham, on behalf of myself and the Chatham Borough Council, call upon our fellow residents to reflect upon the significance of Juneteenth in terms of American history and social justice.

This the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2021



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

Thaddeus J. Kobylarz, Mayor