



Proclamation

Mayor Shaundel

City of La Crosse

WHEREAS, On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers came to Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War had ended and all of those previously enslaved had been freed by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that had been issued more than two years earlier; and

WHEREAS, As one of the nation's oldest holidays, Juneteenth commemorates formerly enslaved individuals and their families and provides an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and observance of a past marred with racism, oppression, and the mistreatment of diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, Our country is composed up of people from every nation on earth who are declared equal, not only in freedom but also in justice, both of which are essential for a healthy human civilization; and

WHEREAS, On June 17th, 2021, President Joseph Biden signed into law the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing Juneteenth a federal public holiday; and

WHEREAS, While Juneteenth serves as a national commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates the extensive and varied achievements of African-Americans throughout our collective history; and

WHEREAS, The City of La Crosse is committed to fostering an understanding of the rich history and contributions of African-American citizens here in our community; and

WHEREAS, The La Crosse Juneteenth Planning Committee consisting of Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge, Hope Restores, Enduring Families Project, Black Student Leaders, and dedicated community members have worked diligently for over 5 years to ensure that this celebration continues to happen in this great city; and

WHEREAS, The La Crosse Juneteenth celebration is an occasion for all citizens to come together in recognition of our shared history and collective progress, and to participate in educational and cultural activities that highlight the resilience and achievements of African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, The spirit of Juneteenth calls upon us to join in solidarity, working towards a more inclusive and equitable future ensuring that the principles of freedom and justice are upheld for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHAUNDEL WASHINGTON-SPIVEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, do hereby proclaim June 20th, 2026 as the

"JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION"



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in the City of La Crosse and encourage all citizens to join in moving forward in solidarity and strength toward a more racially equitable and just society.

Dated on this 20th day of June in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

MAYOR SHAUNDEL

