

*City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado*

# Proclamation


- Whereas,** President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and
- Whereas** word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two-and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans specifically in Texas and Southwestern United States; and
- Whereas** Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of African American slaves in the United States and continues to grow within communities throughout the country, including Mesa County; and
- Whereas,** there are organizations in the Grand Valley, such as Black Citizens and Friends, promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging equity and respect for all people and cultures; and
- Whereas,** the City of Grand Junction a is an inclusive community that encourages a diversity of cultural opportunities; and
- Whereas,** Black Citizens and Friends is hosting a Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 20th, 2026 at Lincoln Park from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Laurel Lutz, Mayor of the City of Grand Junction do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026, as

## *“Juneteenth”*

in the City of Grand Junction acknowledging its significance and encouraging our community to join in this celebration of African American history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

  
*Laurel Lutz*  
Mayor