



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African American experience. It is inclusive of all races, ethnicities and nationalities - as nothing is more comforting than the hand of a friend; and,
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth serves symbolically, and in reality, as a reference point from which to measure and appreciate the progress and contributions made by African Americans to this society; and,
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is a day on which honor and respect is paid for the sufferings of slavery. It is a day on which we acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath; and,
- WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is a day that we commit to each other the needed support as family, friends and co-workers. It is a day we build coalitions that enhance the African American experience; and,
- WHEREAS,** On Juneteenth we come together young and old to listen, to learn and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer together - to better utilize the energy wasted on racism. Juneteenth is a day that we pray for peace and liberty for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor of the City of Merced hereby recognize June 19th, 2023 as Juneteenth in the City and encourage all citizens to attend local events commemorating the occasion.

Signed this 5th day of June 2023.

Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced