

**TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH – JUNE 19, 2022**

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2 ½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19th, commonly known as “Juneteenth,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth for more than 150 years; and

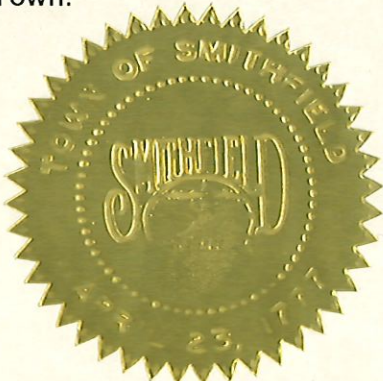
WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom, history and heritage, while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

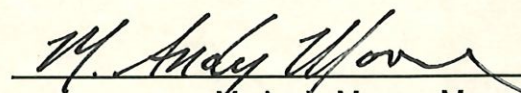
WHEREAS, Slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Smithfield is committed to promoting diversity, racial and cultural harmony.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *M. Andy Moore* Mayor of the Town of Smithfield along with the members of the Town Council, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022 as **JUNETEENTH** in the Town of Smithfield, North Carolina and urge all our citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage four nation and Town.




M. Andy Moore, Mayor