

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing Juneteenth – June 19, 2026

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the freedom of some of the last enslaved people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, although President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, many enslaved people in Texas remained in bondage until federal authority could be enforced following the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, newly emancipated African Americans in Texas began annual Juneteenth celebrations to commemorate freedom, preserve their history, and inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, for more than 150 years, Juneteenth has been observed and celebrated across the United States as a reminder of the enduring struggle for liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the abolition of slavery in the United States and the enduring pursuit of liberty, equality, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, while also reflecting on the continuing journey toward freedom and opportunity for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to honor African American history, heritage, culture, and contributions, and to recognize the strength, resilience, and achievements of generations of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the events of June 19, 1865, became known as "Juneteenth" and marked a significant milestone in the nation's journey toward freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithfield encourages residents to celebrate Juneteenth through reflection, education, community engagement, and a renewed commitment to building a more inclusive future;

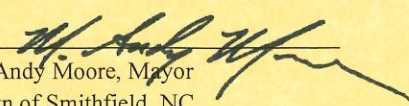
NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield, North Carolina, along with the members of the Town Council do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026, as

JUNETEENTH

in the Town of Smithfield. We encourage all residents to recognize the significance of this day in African American history and in the history of our nation, and to observe and celebrate Juneteenth through appropriate ceremonies, educational programs, and community activities.

Proclaimed this 16th day of June, 2026.




M. Andy Moore, Mayor
Town of Smithfield, NC