

# The City of Holland, Michigan



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation (1863), enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, received word that they were free from bondage, and were recognized for the first time as citizens, equal in personal and property rights with their former masters; and

**WHEREAS**, acting as the date of emancipation, June 19th became a long-standing day of celebration, known as “Juneteenth”, honoring African American resilience and the end of slavery and encouraging unity and respect for all; and

**WHEREAS**, across our city, state, and country, we join hands in acknowledging the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope, and the work of the abolitionists, teachers, civil rights advocates, attorneys, public officials, and neighbors who have helped make real all the principles outlined in our nation’s founding documents; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge our history and work collaboratively to address systemic racism, remove barriers and provide opportunity for all; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the African American leaders and our African American brothers and sisters who have made indelible contributions locally to enrich our community and bring awareness around the needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Holland stands in support of the I AM Academy and our collective work to empower African American adolescents to achieve their full potential by centering their identity, cultivating relationships, supporting educational success, providing college experiences, facilitating job readiness, and supporting educational readiness – ultimately changing the narrative and trajectory of our African American youth; and

**WHEREAS**, we recommit to work toward greater accessibility and opportunity for all.

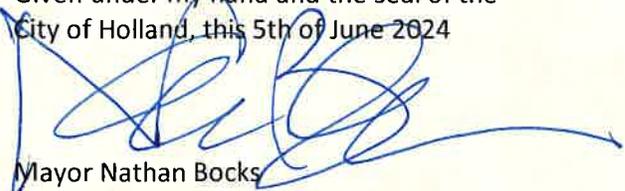
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Nathan Bocks, Mayor of the City of Holland, Michigan, and members of the Holland City Council, proclaim that the City of Holland celebrate,

### June 19th as Juneteenth

as part of our commitment to anti-racism, racial and social justice, encouraging a day of reflection, recognition, acknowledgment, and healing. Further, we encourage community participation at the Juneteenth celebration on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Kollen Park.



Given under my hand and the seal of the  
City of Holland, this 5th of June 2024

  
Mayor Nathan Bocks