

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 celebrate the African American community locally who have made indelible contributions 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 acknowledge our history and work collaboratively to address systemic racism, remove barriers and provide opportunity for all; and

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 Freedom Festival on June 21st at Kollen Park.



Given under my hand and the seal of the
City of Holland, this 4th of June 2025

Mayor Nathan Bocks