



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
Juneteenth Proclamation**

WHEREAS, January 1, 1863 was the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing the practice and institution of slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, the enslaved living in Texas did not receive word of the Emancipation Proclamation until Union General Gordon Granger read federal orders in Galveston, Texas, that all previously enslaved people in Texas were free; and

WHEREAS, June 19 has since become known as Freedom Day and has also become known as the official day of recognition for Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, the Bluffton Juneteenth Celebration is sponsored and hosted annually by the Bluffton MLK Observance Committee with the 6th celebration, themed "Celebrate Freedom;" and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton fully recognizes that the intrinsic value of celebrating Juneteenth Day lies in the acknowledgment that there remains much work to be done in addressing equity, inclusion, equal rights and equal access to opportunity in order to truly overcome racism in our country and in our community; and

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the Town of Bluffton and Town Staff are committed to pursuing the ideals of Justice, Equity and Peace among all of our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, along with the Town Council of the Town of Bluffton, do hereby declare June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth Day in the Town of Bluffton, designating it as a Town of Bluffton holiday, and hereby encourage lawmakers at all federal, state and local levels of government to do the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 15th day of June, 2020.

**LISA SULKA, MAYOR
TOWN OF BLUFFTON**