



## **Proclamation Declaring June 19 at “Juneteenth Day” In the City of Hastings, Minnesota**

**WHEREAS**, the President and Congress of the United States have declared a national holiday to commemorate the day (June 19, 1865) when Union General Gordon Granger and a contingent of Union soldiers brought news of emancipation to Galveston, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act of June 17, 2021, amends the Federal Code to establish a paid holiday for all federal workers on “Juneteenth Independence Day;” and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota also declares June 19 as a state holiday and the City of Hastings, Minnesota wishes to join the national and state governments in setting aside a day for the commemoration of liberty and equality for all citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council support the Hastings community’s participation in the national conversation focusing on dismantling the systemic obstacles that impede our progress towards racial equity and social justice; and

**WHEREAS**, by embracing Juneteenth as a holiday, we encourage community reflection about what unites us and can promote racial understanding and healing; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations like Building Remembrance for Reconciliation and the Dakota County Historical Society are actively engaged in promoting reconciliation through activities, including efforts to build a memorial commemorating Hastings’ early African Methodist Episcopal Church Brown’s Chapel and its congregation and to establish a Black Heritage Trail through Hastings; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Mary Fasbender, and the Hastings City Council hereby declares June 19 as “Juneteenth Day” every year in the City of Hastings and encourage city employees and all citizens to actively participate in dialogue and community events to promote the culture of belonging that was General Granger’s aspiration 159 years ago.

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Mary D. Fasbender, Mayor