

Official Proclamation

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WHEREAS, the residents, businesses, and governmental institutions of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska are firmly committed to celebrating & promoting diversity, inclusion and cultural traditions of our City's communities; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a worldwide celebration, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, initially a regional celebration popular in Texas and neighboring states, Juneteenth grew to become a national event during which African American communities gathered to share in the spirit of the day, featuring outdoor activities, food, and prayer services; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement spurred a resurgence of Juneteenth, leading to the state of Texas declaring it an official state holiday in 1980, and continued to grow as an important national and local celebration of African American freedom, culture, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, with the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, June 19th, the City of Ketchikan acknowledges and marks this important historical event, acknowledging our community members, their families, and the importance of acknowledging historical events; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of profound weight and power. A day in which we remember the moral stain and terrible toll of slavery on our country, a long legacy of racism, inequality, and inhumanity, but is also a day that reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth not only commemorates the past, it calls us to action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Janalee Gage, Vice-Mayor of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, do hereby observe June 19th, 2024 as *Juneteenth Day of Observance*. I ask that the community acknowledge, and celebrate the end of the civil war, and the emancipation of Black Americans, and commit together to eradicate the racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2024

Janalee Gage, Vice-Mayor

City of Ketchikan, Alaska