

TOWN OF NEEDHAM 2025 JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: On July 4, 1776 the thirteen United States of America pronounced in their Declaration of Independence the self-evident truth that all men are created equal, even as those states continued to allow the cruel and inhumane enslavement of African people stolen from their homelands; and

WHEREAS: In 1863 during the Civil War, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that "all persons held as slaves" within the states then in a state of rebellion "are, and henceforth shall be free"; and

WHEREAS: Due to the slow advance of Union troops, enslaved people in Texas did not know of the signing of the proclamation and their subsequent freedom until Union General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS: In 1866 formerly enslaved people and their allies began commemorating the anniversary of the issuance of General Order No. 3 on June 19, calling the date Juneteenth, with celebrations spreading throughout the South and the country over the next century and a half; and

WHEREAS: In 2020, Governor Charlie Baker signed into law a bill designating Juneteenth as a legal holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that June 19th, 2025 be declared Juneteenth in the Town of Needham and that all residents be encouraged to observe Juneteenth as a celebration of the resilience of Black Americans and an opportunity for education about the true history of this country.

Signed this tenth day of June, 2025



Husi L.

James J. McBooley
Henry, Daniel
SELECT BOARD