

## **Juneteenth**

### **June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Whereas**, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States, dating back to June 19, 1865 when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war was ended, freeing the enslaved; and

**Whereas**, this was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which became official January 1, 1863; and

**Whereas**, today, Juneteenth celebrates African- American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures as it takes on a more national, symbolic and even local perspective, to ensure the events of 1865 are not forgotten; and

**Now, Therefore**, be it resolved that I, John D. Noak, Mayor of the Village of Romeoville proclaim that June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 be declared Juneteenth and strongly urge all residents of the Village to recognize and celebrate this nationally recognized commemoration which honors this history, legacy and culture of African-Americans throughout our Village.