



# Proclamation

## Juneteenth Freedom Day

January 19, 2026

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, bringing freedom to enslaved African Americans more than two years after the proclamation was issued; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is recognized as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and serves as a reminder of our Nation's continued pursuit of liberty, equality, and justice for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to reflect upon our shared history, recognize the resilience and contributions of African Americans, and honor those whose sacrifices helped shape our communities and our country; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Juneteenth encourages education, understanding, and dialogue regarding our Nation's history and the ongoing work to promote equality, opportunity, and inclusion for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tolleson embraces the rich diversity of its residents and is committed to fostering a welcoming community where all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth National Independence Day was established as a federal holiday, further recognizing the significance of this historic event and its enduring impact on the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Juan F. Rodriguez, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tolleson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City of Tolleson, and encourage all residents to observe this day through reflection, education, service, and celebration of freedom, equality, and the contributions of African Americans to our community, state, and nation.



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Juan F. Rodriguez, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Zamora, City Clerk