PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-14

JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states in the South and Southwest, and in other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the annual Juneteenth celebration in the City of Brevard this year will be a weekend-long celebration taking place on June 15th and 16th at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center and Silversteen Park; and a film screening commemorating Juneteenth on June 19th at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, beginning this year Juneteenth is an official City of Brevard holiday and City offices will be closed on June 19th.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, do hereby declare June 19th, 2024, as JUNETEENTH in the City of Brevard, North Carolina, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American History and in the heritage of our nation and City.

Proclaimed this the 3rdth day of June, 2024.

Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Hodsdon, CMC
City Clerk