CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

Proclamation

NO. 2026-19
JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the enslaved people 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 include a historical trolley tour on June 19th and 20th; a guest speaker and seafood dinner on Friday evening, June 19th at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center; an afternoon celebration on Saturday, June 20th at Silversteen Memorial Playground; and a joint worship service followed by a Sunday dinner on Sunday, June 21st at Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, 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, 2026, 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brevard to be affixed on this 15th day of June, 2026.

Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC
City Clerk

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