

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.2020-06-01**  
**DECLARING JUNETEENTH A HOLIDAY FOR THE CITY OF PATERSON**

**WHEREAS**, the news of liberation of slaves came to Texas more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. African Americans were not made aware of their right to freedom until June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston with federal troops to read General Order No. 3 announcing the end of the Civil War and that all enslaved people were now free, as well as to maintain a presence in Texas for the purpose of enforcement of emancipation among slave-owners throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Paterson has a rich history in ensuring the freedom of enslaved people as famed City abolitionists Josiah Huntoon and William Van Rensalier worked as part of the Underground Railroad network to aid enslaved Africans escape to Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, this observance is a reminder of the hardships and losses suffered by African Americans in their continued struggle to attain freedom and justice. We pay tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this quest; through their experiences and those of others who were successful in achieving victory, we find among the most poignant and valuable lessons of humankind that continue to resonate with people of all backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate that all Patersonians join to observe such a significant day in our country’s history, as we take this opportunity to reflect upon and rejoice in the freedom and civil rights that we all share as Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Andre Sayegh, Mayor of the City of Paterson, New Jersey by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Statutes of this State and the Code of the City of Paterson, do hereby recognize June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth, which shall be a holiday for the City of Paterson and all City employees with pay.

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the City of Paterson this eighteenth day of June in the year two thousand twenty.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PATERSON

APPROVED:

ATTESTED TO AND RECORDED BY:

MAYOR ANDRE SAYEGH

SONIA GORDON, CITY CLERK

DATE: June 18, 2020

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

FARRAH IRVING, ESQ.  
CORPORATION COUNSEL

DATE: June 18, 2020