

City of Gonzales



State of Louisiana Proclamation

WHEREAS: Juneteenth is recognized as Freedom Day or our country's second Independence Day; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth was the day that slavery ended in the United States resulting in the emancipation of all slaves and beginning the restoration of culture, name, language, faith and identity; and

WHEREAS: President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, freeing the enslaved people in the South, but those orders were ignored by Confederate Southern slave owners; and

WHEREAS: On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the President's order, freeing the enslaved people two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued; and

WHEREAS: Other systems of oppression and systematic inequalities, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the reverberation of Black bodies and Black impoverishment, continued well past slavery and some persist to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and even the continuing education of young African American children; and

WHEREAS: African Americans have advanced academically, politically, and financially and continue to strive to build wealth within the Black community in and beyond; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, R. Ryland Percy, III, Mayor of the City of Gonzales, Parish of Ascension, State of Louisiana, do hereby acknowledge June 19, 2024 as Juneteenth in the City of Gonzales, the annual recognition of Black emancipation, the celebration of the past, present, and future of Black economic liberation, and our commitment to eradicate systemic racism that undermines our collective prosperity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused to be affixed the Official Seal of the City of Gonzales, Parish of Ascension, State of Louisiana, on this 17th day of June 2024.

A blue ink signature of R. Ryland Percy, III, written over a horizontal line.

R. Ryland Percy, III, Mayor-Administrator

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Scot Byrd, written over a horizontal line.

Scot Byrd, City Clerk-CAO

