

# 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, Timothy "Tim" Riley, Mayor of the City of Gonzales, Parish of Ascension, State of Louisiana, do hereby acknowledge June 19, 2025 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Riley", is written over a horizontal line.

Timothy "Tim" Riley, Mayor-Administrator

