

# Mecklenburg County

## North Carolina

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to free 250,000 people still being held in bondage; and

**WHEREAS**, June 19<sup>th</sup> (Juneteenth) became the emancipation date of black Americans long suffering for freedom in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, through works of activists like Ms. Opal Lee, known as the grandmother of Juneteenth and former State Representative Al Edwards, who authored the bill that made Texas the first state to designate Juneteenth a holiday in 1980, Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of Juneteenth is a recognition of the endurance, strength, and resilience of black Americans over oppression and inequality in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the tradition of celebration has remained throughout the generations as Juneteenth is honored with family gatherings, prayer, festivities, drumming, dance, inspirational speeches, art, poetry readings, picnics, games, singing and fellowship; and

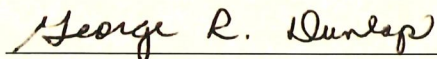
**WHEREAS**, for African Americans, Juneteenth is a tribute to the strength and perseverance of our ancestors and a reminder for all Americans to commit to the eradication of racism and inequity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim June 19, 2024, as

## “JUNETEENTH DAY OF OBSERVANCE”

in Mecklenburg County and encourage all citizens to join us in this special observance.

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024

  
George R. Dunlap, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

