

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 19th (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

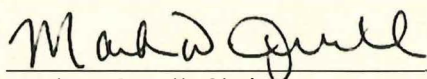
WHEREAS, for African Americans, Juneteenth is a tribute to the strength and perseverance of our ancestors and a reminder for all Americans to commit to the eradication of racism and inequity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim June 19, 2026, as

“JUNETEENTH DAY OF OBSERVANCE”

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

This 16th day of June 2026



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

