



TOWN OF WINTHROP OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1742

MOTION

Submitted By: Councilor Belcher

Date: May 15, 2025

Motion for the council to approve the following proclamation recognizing June 19th, 2025, as Juneteenth National Independence Day in Winthrop.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, federally and locally observed annually on June 19th, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom—more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is recognized as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, and stands as a symbol of the long and continuing struggle for racial equity, justice, and the celebration of African American culture, heritage, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Juneteenth is an opportunity for reflection, education, and renewed commitment to the values of freedom, equality, and community, which are foundational to the Town of Winthrop; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winthrop celebrates the diversity in our residents and recognizes that the impact of our African American neighbors on the vibrant fabric of our community is indelible and deserving of recognition, acknowledgement, and a solid commitment to ensure continued equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winthrop recognizes the importance of acknowledging this significant date in American history and affirms its commitment to fostering a more inclusive and just society;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Winthrop Town Council does hereby proclaim June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth National Independence Day in the Town of Winthrop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in honor of this day, the Juneteenth flag shall be flown at the E.B. Newton Cultural Center in accordance with Town Ordinance on Wednesday, June 19, 2025, as a symbol of remembrance, celebration, and unity.