



## Town of Orono

### PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH IN ORONO

**WHEREAS**, this nation was founded on the principles stated in the Declaration of Independence that “*all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*” but in which Black people were held in slavery for eight-seven years hence; and

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which holds that all persons held as slaves within a State or designated part of a State “*shall be then, thenceforward, forever free,*” changing the legal status of 3.5 million enslaved Black people from slave to free; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, news of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the most distant slave states until two-and-one-half years later, being read in Galveston, Texas, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, the day of respect and remembrance called “Juneteenth,” a combination of the words “June” and “nineteenth”, is observed as an important day in our nation’s history; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2011 the State of Maine is one of forty-seven States and the District of Columbia that recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or day of observance; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom while also serving as a reminder of the inequities faced by Black people throughout our nation’s history; and

**WHEREAS**, Orono strives to be a community of people who do not look away from historical truths and who are committed to addressing ongoing inequities faced by Black people in Maine and in the United States.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Thomas Perry, on behalf of the Orono Town Council, do hereby proclaim June 19<sup>th</sup> as Juneteenth in the Town of Orono, and urge all community members to celebrate the fundamental truth that equality is a moral and ethical right for all.

Given this the 10th day of May, 2021.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly J. Crosby  
Town Clerk

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Perry  
Council Chair