CITY OF MELROSE

MELROSE CITY HALL
562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176

PAUL BRODEUR
Mayor

Telephone: (781) 979-4440

Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth

WHEREAS: On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, recognizing and securing in law the unalienable right to freedom of every enslaved person behind Confederate lines; and

WHEREAS: over two and one half years later, Union Army General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and read Order Number Three on June 19, 1865, informing the enslaved residents of that State of their freedom; and

WHEREAS: from that day forward, June 19th has been a day of celebration, prayer, and reflection focused on the history, hardships, and achievements of Black people throughout the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: the work of securing liberty and justice for all continues as communities across the Commonwealth and Nation confront, challenge, and seek to eradicate systemic racism and white supremacy;

THEREFORE: I, Paul Brodeur, do hereby declare that the 19th day of June is today, and in perpetuity shall be annually known as

Juneteenth

in the City of Melrose and I urge all residents to take cognizance of this occasion by learning more about its origins, reflecting on how they can promote equity, and honoring the resiliency, achievements, and legacy of our Black community.

Paul Brodeur
Mayor

June 19, 2020
Date