



A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY IN NEW ALBANY

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring all enslaved persons in Confederate States to be free, a symbolic and important shift in national policy and setting the stage for the permanent abolishment of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War ended with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army on April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in the town of Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 and issued a pronouncement that the Civil War had ended and proclaimed that all enslaved persons were free; and

WHEREAS, slavery in the United States was formally abolished by the ratification of the 13th Amendment by the states on December 18, 1865; and

WHEREAS, June 19th – known as Juneteenth, has special meaning to African Americans, and has been commemorated for over 150 years as a day of remembrance and celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the President of the United States signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act recognizing the nineteenth day of June as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, by law, the State of Ohio designates the nineteenth day of June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day, acknowledging the freedom, history, and culture that June 19, 1865 has come to symbolize; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Albany is a community that welcomes all, celebrates the freedoms each of us enjoys, and wishes to inspire and encourage future generations.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor of the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, on behalf of Council and the residents of New Albany, recognize June 19th as **JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY** and encourage members of our community to reflect on their freedoms, appreciate the history of struggle against slavery that led to liberation, and acknowledge the perseverance of African Americans against racism and inequality.

WHEREBY, I set my hand and seal this 19th day of June, 2025.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Sloan T. Spalding", is written over a horizontal line.

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor