



For Immediate Release  
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## **MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP RECOGNIZES JUNETEENTH**

*Mount Laurel, NJ* --- On Monday June 13 Mount Laurel Township Council proclaimed observing Juneteenth on Friday, June 17. The day serves to commemorate the freedom of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston Bay Texas with news that the Civil War had ended. A federal order was issued to abolish slavery in accordance with the Emancipation Proclamation, and this day became known as Juneteenth.

“On Juneteenth we celebrate the important history of Black Americans and the community’s contributions to our society. While we’ve made great progress, let us remember that racial inequality and discrimination still exists in our society, and we must make every effort to speak out against this,” stated Mayor Pritchett.

Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday in 2021 and marks the United States’ second Independence Day.

“The American values of liberty and freedom has been delayed for diverse communities for far too long. Juneteenth is a celebration to show how far we’ve come and the steps we still need to take for true equality for all.” Deputy Mayor Steglik said.

Mount Laurel Township and Township Council are committed to our diverse communities and encourage all residents to recognize the significance of Juneteenth in our nation's history.

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