

Juneteenth National Freedom Day

June 20, 2009

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two and a half years following President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Major General Gordon Granger led Union Army troops into Galveston, Texas, and issued the order to free the Black Africans enslaved in that state; and

WHEREAS, first celebrated 144 years ago, Juneteenth is the first and oldest African American holiday observance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 the State of Texas was the first to officially proclaim 19th June as a state holiday – Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, 31 states now have some official recognition of Juneteenth, and are joining the efforts of a National recognition of Juneteenth Movement of Dr. Ronald Myers; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a celebration of the values that define us as Americans, the love of freedom, passion for justice, and commitment to equality; and

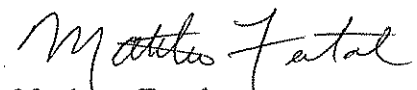
WHEREAS, As the Universal African Flag and the Juneteenth Flags are hoisted at this year's festivities, at the Bowers Museum on June 13th, that our citizens will reflect upon the absolute right to freedom now protected for all American citizens, made complete by the passage of the 13th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, by honoring African-American history and commemorating the end of slavery in our nation, we can ensure that the strength and sacrifices of those who came before us are not forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has proclaimed the 3rd Saturday in June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day and it is appropriate that the City of Garden Grove continue its established history of recognizing this and join in public celebrations on June 20, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the City Council does hereby proclaim June 20, 2009, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Garden Grove.

Recommended for Approval



**Matthew Fertal
City Manager**