



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
“On the Bank of the Suwannee River”

On June 19, 1865 — nearly nine decades after our Nation’s founding, and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation — enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage. As those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today. In its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans. I am proud that Juneteenth has been consecrated as our newest national holiday. ***Juneteenth is a day of profound weight and power.***

A day in which we remember the moral stain and terrible toll of slavery on our country — what I’ve long called America’s original sin. A long legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity. But it is a day that also reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve. On Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. We celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility. That work has been led throughout our history by educators, advocates and lawyers, courageous activists’, public officials, and all communities throughout this great country.

Psalm 30 proclaims that “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Juneteenth marks both the long, hard night of slavery and discrimination, and the promise of a brighter morning to come. Together, we will lay the roots of real and lasting justice, so that we can become the extraordinary country, state, town, city, and neighborhood that was promised to all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Anita T. Rivers*, Mayor by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Town of White Springs, Fl, do hereby proclaim: **Saturday, June 17th 2023 – Juneteenth Celebration Day at the**

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. Signed _____ June 13, 2023

Vanessa George, Town Manager – Audre’ J. Ruise, Town Clerk