

# PROCLAMATION

## *Juneteenth*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Redlands recognizes JUNETEENTH as a citywide celebration on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in recognition of the day news reached the Black community in Texas of their emancipation from slavery on June 19, 1865, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Emancipation Day; and

**WHEREAS**, at 2 p.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, using his war powers as President, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, providing that all persons held as enslaved within any State in rebellion against the United States "*shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;*" and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation made the permanent abolition of slavery a Union war aim and provided the legal framework for the emancipation of nearly all four million enslaved people, ultimately serving as the catalyst for the announcement of General Order No. 3 by United States Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas; and

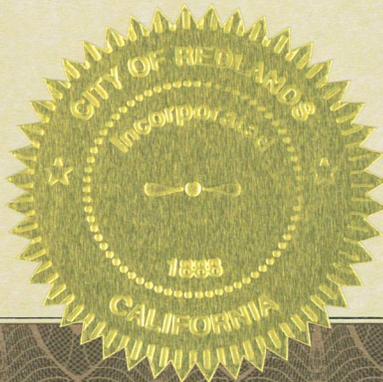
**WHEREAS**, Congress ultimately passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes Israel Beal, born into slavery April 10, 1848, was freed from slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation and served as a teamster. Israel Beal was a Redlands pioneer, affectionately known as "Doc," was a property owner, teamster, builder, and business owner in the young State of California, hauling and moving houses as an early contractor from San Bernardino to Lugonia in 1883, contributing to the construction of early churches in Redlands, the City's reservoir and the original Big Bear Dam, and planting the 160-acre vineyard which now makes up part of the University of Redlands campus; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Human Relations Commission gratefully acknowledge the contributions made by Black community members to the enrichment of the City of Redlands;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the City Council of the City of Redlands does hereby recognize June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth and the many contributions made by valuable residents and community leaders past and present who are committed to preserving African-American history in the City of Redlands.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we hereunto affix our signatures and Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 3rd day of June, 2025



Mario Saucedo, Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk