

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE  
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA  
PROCLAIMING MAY 20, 2021 AS  
"FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY"  
IN THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON**

*WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, announcing that "on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"; and*

*WHEREAS, despite the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, news of the end of slavery did not travel to certain regions of the United States for more than 2 years afterwards; and*

*WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, federal authorities who had arrived in Galveston, Texas informed slaves that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. June 19<sup>th</sup> or "Juneteenth, has been commonly recognized and celebrated as the day that slavery ended in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill No. 243 in 1991, creating Section 683.21, Florida Statutes, which officially designates June 19<sup>th</sup> of each year as "Juneteenth Day" to commemorate the traditional observance of the day the slaves in Florida were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation; and*

*WHEREAS, on May 20, 1865, Union Brigadier General Edward M. McCook formally announced President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation from the steps of the Knott House in Tallahassee, Florida, effectively ending slavery in the State of Florida and as a result, many Floridians celebrate May 20<sup>th</sup> as Emancipation Day in Florida.*

*WHEREAS, the recognition of June 19<sup>th</sup> as the day of emancipation in the United States, while denoting a significant part of history, does not comprehensively and accurately represent Florida's historical emancipation record; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of Florida's unique history with respect to the emancipation of slaves, the Village Council of Wellington, Florida does hereby proclaim and recognize May 20, 2021 as "Florida Emancipation Day".*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Wellington, Florida to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.*

**ATTEST:**

**WELLINGTON, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chevelle D. Addie, Village Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Gerwig, Mayor