

## ***Proclamation Recognizing Kennedale Moms of Color and City of Kennedale on Observance of Juneteenth***

***WHEREAS***, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Final Emancipation Proclamation which declares all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free, and;

***WHEREAS***, two- and one-half years later, on June 19, 1865, some 2,000 Union troops arrived at Galveston Bay, Texas, and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in Texas were free by executive decree, and;

***WHEREAS***, the newly freed Black people in Texas, came to refer to and commemorate this date as “Juneteenth,” a term referencing a combination of the month of June and the number 19, and;

***WHEREAS***, in 1980, Texas became the first state in the nation to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and;

***WHEREAS***, on June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, in a ceremony that included Tarrant County’s own Mrs. Opal Lee, who is known as the “Grandmother of Juneteenth,” signed a bill establishing Juneteenth as the eleventh holiday recognized by the federal government, and;

***WHEREAS***, in June 2022, the Kennedale Moms of Color planned and hosted the city’s first community-wide Juneteenth commemoration, and;

***WHEREAS***, the Honorable Mayor of Kennedale Jan Joplin, the City Council, and City staff, at the urging of the Kennedale Moms of Color, voted to officially adopt Juneteenth as a city holiday, and;

***WHEREAS***, on Saturday, June 17, 2023, in the City of Kennedale, Juneteenth will be observed with a Freedom Day Parade, educational and family activities, food and vendors and live entertainment in Kennedale’s TownCenter Park;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that we, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, do hereby recognize the City of Kennedale and the Kennedale Moms of Color and commend them for their continued efforts to reflect, educate, encourage, and remember history, and promote equality and unity among all people.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Tarrant County to be affixed this 6th day of June, 2023.