

# City of Commerce City,



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a federal holiday that celebrates the emancipation of last enslaved African Americans in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their freedom and that slavery had been abolished, a full two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which declared more than three million slaves free; and*

*WHEREAS, Freed slaves celebrated the news of their freedom through prayers, song, dance, and food; and*

*WHEREAS, the following year on June 19, the first celebration was held that included clothing that represented their new freedom, prayers, spiritual songs and a feast, a celebration that was held in other states and became a tradition within a few years; and*

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth is now celebrated across the country through community marches, religious services, prayer vigils, educational events, family gatherings, and cultural events that include food, music, and dancing, while also providing an opportunity for the nation to remember the impact slavery has had on the African American community and honor African American culture and those who continue to fight to end inequalities, injustices, and the struggles that affect the African American community.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of Commerce City recognizes June 19, 2024 as 'Juneteenth' and encourages all residents to join in celebrating by joining the City at the Juneteenth Celebration at Pioneer Park on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 7 pm.*



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed on the Seventeenth day of June 2024.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO

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Steven J. Douglas, Mayor