



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

RICHARD T. MATTHEWS  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

JESSICA A. HUGHES  
City Clerk

BRANDON MAZER  
Corporation Counsel

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUNETEETH  
IN THE CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND**

District One  
LINDA C. COHEN

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, officially ending slavery in the United States; and

District Two  
RACHAEL COLEMAN

**WHEREAS**, since 1866, African Americans have celebrated Juneteenth to commemorate the day freedom was proclaimed to all enslaved people in the South, and only reaching Texas, one of the last states to allow ownership of people, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

District Three  
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four  
JESSICA L. WALKER

**WHEREAS**, this historic moment would not have been possible without the courage and sacrifice of the nearly 200,000 formerly enslaved and free African Americans who fought for freedom and liberty alongside more than two million Union service members; and

District Five  
ELYSE C. TIPTON

At Large  
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and determination of African Americans who were first brought to the stolen lands of America in the hulls of slave ships traveling the trade route known as the "Middle Passage" and celebrates the rich heritage and accomplishments of African Americans in our country. and

At Large  
NATALIE E. WEST

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED** the South Portland City Council does hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in South Portland. The City Council encourages all citizens to recommit themselves to defending the self-evident truth that all people are created equal.

**Sealed with the Seal of the City of South Portland, Maine, on this 6th Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty Five.**