



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Today we recognize the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth with the focus on the importance of calling attention to and celebrating Juneteenth as one of the critical turning points for the United States, instead of a footnote in history; and

WHEREAS: President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: Word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and a half years, to June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced in the town square that all slaves were free; and

WHEREAS: The newly freed men and women rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations, and thus, the Juneteenth holiday was born; and

WHEREAS: Emancipation Day observations are held on different days in different states throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim June 19th as

JUNETEENTH

in Lima, Ohio encourage all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American history and in the heritage of our nation and City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 19th day of June, 2022.

**SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO**

