

# City of Simpsonville Proclamation

Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, holds great historical and cultural significance as a commemoration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger's arrival in Galveston, Texas, marked a pivotal moment when the announcement of the end of slavery was made, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

The City of Simpsonville recognizes the profound importance of Juneteenth and its enduring legacy. It represents a symbol of liberation, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of equality, reflecting the indomitable spirit of African Americans throughout our nation's history.

In tribute to the heritage, culture, and contributions of African Americans, the City of Simpsonville proudly declares that Juneteenth shall be observed as an official city holiday. This designation provides an invaluable opportunity for reflection, education, and celebration among our city employees and the community at large.

To honor the significance of this day, all city offices will be closed, allowing employees and residents to fully engage in Juneteenth festivities, gatherings, educational programs, and cultural events. These activities promote understanding, unity, and progress as we continue our collective journey toward racial justice and equality.

On this momentous occasion, we extend our gratitude to the organizers, community leaders, and individuals who tirelessly advocate for social justice, inclusivity, and a deeper understanding of our shared history. Together, we strive to build a city and a nation where every person is treated with dignity, equality, and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Shewmaker, Mayor of the City of Simpsonville, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as JUNETEENTH - A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM in the City of Simpsonville. We encourage all residents to actively participate in activities that commemorate the emancipation of enslaved individuals, celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans, and foster a deeper understanding of our shared history.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Simpsonville to be affixed this 13th day of June in the year of our Lord 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Shewmaker".

Paul Shewmaker, Mayor