



Denis Law Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas, we acknowledge the notice of freedom given to the slaves of the State of Texas on June 19, 1865; and

Whereas, we give honor and respect on this day to the suffering of our ancestors and we acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath; and

Whereas, on this celebration, we think about the moment in 1888 when 300 Black men from Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky were determined to escape the terrorism of the post-Civil War South as they boarded trains for the Washington territory and settled in King County mining camps; and

Whereas, the story and outspokenness of James Shepperson, an educated Black man who settled in Roslyn, WA in 1888, inspired many other blacks to flee the south at great risk and pursue new opportunities in Washington state as miners; and

Whereas, we acknowledge African American freedom, contributions, and achievements within this community, past and present; and

Whereas, during this Juneteenth event, we appreciate the African American experience and celebrate the inclusion of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities; and

Whereas, we commit to working together toward equity for all in expanding economic, educational, and career opportunities for all those in our community;

Now, therefore, I, Denis Law, Mayor of the City of Renton, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2019, to be

Juneteenth 2019

in the City of Renton, and I encourage all citizens to join me in this celebration.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Renton to be affixed this 17th day of June, 2019.

Denis Law, Mayor
City of Renton, Washington

