

# CITY OF SPOKANE



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865 the news finally arrived in Galveston, Texas that despite slave owners withholding the information, the Emancipation Proclamation had freed all enslaved persons 2 ½ years earlier now allowing for their freedom after decades of disenfranchisement; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to the efforts of Opal Lee and many others, President Biden signed a bill declaring Juneteenth a federal holiday in 2021. This day now serves as an emphasis on the celebration of the life, joy, heritage, and culture that the African American community shares, along with a day to measure the progress that has been made in the realm of accomplishments and contributions in Spokane and across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, this day is a commitment to the African American community regarding the continued perseverance towards equality and the acknowledgment that there is still work to be done regarding systematic racism, income inequality, and access to resources such as education:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 as

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY

in Spokane and encourage all residents to join me in honoring the past, while reflecting on the present, and setting our sights onward to a better future while celebrating the strength and power of the African American community.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,  
do hereunto set my hand and  
cause the seal of the City of Spokane  
to be affixed this  
9th day of June 2025.

*Lisa Brown*

Lisa Brown  
Mayor

