

**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth had its origin on June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, to enforce President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation and declare freedom for all slaves. Each year thereafter, former Texas slaves and their descendents joined in a celebration of freedom on June 19, and the day became known as “Juneteenth;” and

**WHEREAS,** across our nation, Americans continue to celebrate Juneteenth, a day to reflect on the sufferings of slavery and to remember the joyful declaration of freedom. It is a time of rejoicing with family and friends and a time for planning the future; and

**WHEREAS,** in Battle Creek, Michigan, this celebration is known as “Juneteenth Family Day.” It is a coming together of the “Juneteenth” event originated in 2003 by the Battle Creek branch of the NAACP and the Urban League of Battle Creek’s long standing “Family Day” event to create a family focused celebration of freedom for all communities in the greater Battle Creek area; and

**WHEREAS,** it is our hope that by remaining sensitized to the conditions, lessons, and experiences of others we can make significant and lasting improvements in our society;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mark A. Behnke, Mayor of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, and in concurrence with the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the 3rd Saturday in June, which is on June 16, 2018, as:

**“JUNETEENTH FAMILY DAY”**

in the Greater Battle Creek area and encourage all citizens to increase awareness about the history of this significant event and participate with appropriate celebrations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Logo of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018.

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Mark A. Behnke, Mayor