

Village of Menands

MAYOR

Megan Grenier

VILLAGE CLERK

Don Handerhan



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Executive Order No 1

June 18, 2020

Declaring Juneteenth (June 19, 2020) a Holiday Observance in the Village of Menands

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the Confederate states "are, and henceforward shall be free"; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, Union troops led by Major Gordon Granger, arrived at Galveston, Texas, to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved Africans were now free; and

WHEREAS, upon his arrival in Texas, Major General Granger, issued General Order Number 3 which stated "the people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves"; and

WHEREAS, June 19 or Juneteenth, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and celebrates African American freedom and achievement; and

WHEREAS, this observance is a reminder of the hardships and losses suffered by African Americans in their struggle to attain freedom, and we pay tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this quest; through their experiences and those of others who were successful in achieving victory, we find among the most poignant and valuable lessons of humankind that continue to resonate with people of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the official emancipation of African Americans throughout the United States literally and figuratively opened doors of opportunity that enabled following generations to contribute immeasurably to our nation's richness, equality of citizens, and global leadership, and today communities across New York State mark the anniversary of Juneteenth with appropriate commemoration; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Village of Menands join to commemorate such an important day in our nation's history, as we take this opportunity to reflect upon and rejoice in the freedom and civil rights that we all share as Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Megan Grenier, Mayor of the Village of Menands, by virtue of the laws of the state of New York do hereby recognize June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth, which shall be a holiday for Village employees to observe and reflect on this meaningful day in history.

This order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and on behalf of Mayor Megan Grenier, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Village of Menands to be affixed this 18th day of June, 2020.

Aileen Nicoll

Deputy Mayor, Village of Menands

Witness

DONALD A. HANDERHAN
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Albany County
No. 01HA6396471
Commission Expires 8/19/2023
www.villageofmenands.com