



Former Mayor Richard Jackson with current Mayor Emily Allen



# PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the longest-running African American Holiday; and

WHEREAS, it recognizes June 19, 1865, as the date the news of slavery end reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation that freed the enslaved people living in the Confederacy took effect January 1, 1863, and was the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth began primarily with church celebrations in 1866 and spread throughout the black communities, particularly in the south; and

WHEREAS, between 1854-1861, people living in Kansas could decide if the state would allow slavery or the principle known as Popular Sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Kansas became known as bleeding Kansas because of violence carried out by both sides, antislavery and proslavery supporters; and

WHEREAS, Kansas had a reputation as a land of freedom and attracted a diverse group of people, not everyone enjoyed the same benefits; and

WHEREAS, Kansas did not have any Jim Crow laws early in Kansas history, as time passed though, segregation became more common; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Landmark Ruling, Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education in 1954 allowed states to operate separate but equal schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1881, Tinnon vs. Ottawa was a prelude to Brown's similar ruling only regarding schools in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa swimming pool was segregated well into the 1960's, and Ottawa has dealt with the residue of segregation; and

WHEREAS, Ottawa has worked to make this an inclusive community, let's use the Juneteenth holiday as an opportunity to honor the true meaning of the Holiday and what it represents and continue to work toward the promise of equality for all.

THEREFORE, we, the Governing Body of the City of Ottawa, Kansas do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025 to be recognized as

## JUNETEENTH

in the City of Ottawa, Kansas.

SIGNED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

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Emily Allen, Mayor