

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States and more specifically the end of slavery in the state of Texas, and

WHEREAS, many Mansfield residents have observed Juneteenth in our community for more than 80 years, gathering together to learn more about our city's journey from a time of racial segregation to integration, and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth and once again Mansfield residents will gather to celebrate not only this milestone but the 125th birthday of our city, and

WHEREAS, continuing this tradition through joining together, celebrating our community's diversity and creating an environment of healing, Mansfield is providing a strong foundation for future generations to be united in common goals of strengthening and building our city, and

WHEREAS, this year's Mansfield Juneteenth celebration, one of the oldest in the state, will be held on Saturday, June 20, at McClendon Park and will include a community walk through the historical areas of West Mansfield, and

WHEREAS, we express our gratitude for the dedication of the Norwood family and others who work to keep this important tradition alive in our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David L. Cook, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, join with the members of the City Council, and hereby proclaim June 20, 2015

JUNETEENTH DAY

in Mansfield and encourage all citizens to participate in these activities and embrace the mission of reconciliation and unification this celebration represents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield, Texas, to be affixed this 8th day of June, 2015.