

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center is proud to celebrate Black History month with the citizens of Gainesville. We are aware of the need for the accurate portrayal of African American History and are here to seeking a Proclamation which we consider to be vital to our city and state; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22nd, 1862. It stipulated that if the Southern states did not cease their rebellion by January 1st, 1863, then the Proclamation would go into effect; and

WHEREAS, When the Confederacy did not yield, President Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation in the State of Florida was proclaimed by General Edward McCook in Tallahassee, Florida on May 20, 1865, 11 days after the end of the Civil War, and more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, On June 19th, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas and informed the enslaved people that the Civil War had ended, and slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, Texas and Florida became the last two states to read the Emancipation Proclamation to their people, Galveston Texas began its celebration and cities all over our nation joined in recognition of it being the last state to hear the reading. Citizens of Florida also began celebrating May 20th in their schools, and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2021 as

EMANCIPATION DAY

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and communities all over the state in officially celebrating May 20th as Emancipation Day in the state of Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 9th day of February, A.D., 2021.


Lauren Poe
Mayor

