



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 12, 2015

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
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MINER CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH AT CITY HALL

Miner Marks the Occasion Annually with a City Hall Flag Raising and by Issuing a Proclamation

Miner: This is a great occasion to celebrate the diverse history of the City of Syracuse and enjoy a great Downtown Festival

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner welcomed members of the local African-American community to City Hall today to celebrate Juneteenth. As part of the ceremony, the Mayor issued a proclamation declaring Friday to be “Juneteenth Festival Day” in the City of Syracuse.

“This is a great occasion to celebrate the diverse history of the City of Syracuse and enjoy a great Downtown Festival,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I am pleased to thank the organizers and volunteers who make this event possible every year.”

Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were immediately freed. This year marks the 150th anniversary of that day. Each year, it is marked with a flag raising ceremony at City Hall and the Mayor issues a proclamation.

Below is the full text of the Mayor’s proclamation:

WHEREAS, The Annual Juneteenth Festival in the City of Syracuse is a community celebration of the spirit of self-empowerment, a commemoration of the long, and arduous fight for freedom by African-Americans in the United States and the acknowledgement of the many contributions African-Americans have made to our mutual American culture; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth remembers the celebration of freedom on June 19, 1865, nearly two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, when Major General Gordon

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Granger and his Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that slavery had ended and the war was over; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse is proud to be home of one of the largest Juneteenth festivals in the country, attracting more than 28,000 attendees in 2010; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Juneteenth celebrations will include a recognition dinner, flag-raising at City Hall, a parade, and a variety of other activities; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge and thank the Juneteenth Festival Committee, sponsors, supporters and participants for their commitment to this important annual community celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHANIE A. MINER, Mayor of the City of Syracuse, do hereby proclaim the TWELFTH DAY OF JUNE, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN as

JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL DAY
In the City of Syracuse

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Syracuse to be imprinted the TWELFTH DAY OF JUNE, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN.

[Signed]
Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor

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