

City of Montgomery, Alabama

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** *Juneteenth (June 19, 1865), represents the symbolic commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, more than two and half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of Civil War; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Montgomery, Alabama was once the capital of the slave trade in Alabama and in the year 1860, had an enslaved black population of over 23,000; and*
- WHEREAS,** *in 1955, Montgomery, Alabama was the site of the nation's first large scale U.S. demonstration against segregation where for 381 days, Black citizens refused to ride city-wide buses to protest segregated seating on public transportation; and*
- WHEREAS,** *in 1965, a group of demonstrators marched from Selma to Montgomery to demand the right to vote for Black people; and*
- WHEREAS,** *in Montgomery, Alabama, many of those who were key in the Civil Rights Movement walked these very streets calling for justice including many known heroes and many unsung heroes of the movement; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Alabama and many other states in the Deep South endured decades under Jim Crow segregation laws, discrimination and divestment in Black communities which still feel the impact today; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Alabama has a history of a state once besieged by those who would divide but saved by those who would unite and fight for the rights of every human; and*
- WHEREAS,** *partners like the Equal Justice Initiative are fostering racial reconciliation and healing, adding to Alabama's Civil and Human Rights Legacy; and*
- WHEREAS,** *that legacy ties and extends to the entire state, a place of beauty, diversity and historic accomplishment;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Reed, Mayor of the City of Montgomery, do hereby proclaim the City of Montgomery celebrates Juneteenth and calls upon Governor Kay Ivey to make Juneteenth an official state holiday;



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Montgomery to be affixed on this 18th day of June, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven L. Reed', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steven L. Reed, Mayor of Montgomery, Ala.