

CITY OF KINSTON

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth stands as a historic milestone in our nation's journey toward freedom, recognizing the end of slavery for Black Americans in the United States, and provides an opportunity for communities to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of Black Americans; and,

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States, and on June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3, proclaiming that all enslaved individuals were free; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest Black-American holiday that observes and commemorates the day when a quarter of a million enslaved people learned of their freedom two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, although slavery in the United States is in the past, civil rights and equality issues for Black-Americans persist, and we are committed to efforts that ensure the progress that has been made only continues to move forward; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Don Hardy, Mayor of Kinston, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the 19th day of June 2025 as

“Juneteenth”

in the City of Kinston, and encourage all residents to join in the celebration of freedom that Juneteenth represents, and continue our efforts to help make Kinston a community that is a welcoming place where all have the opportunity to thrive.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Kinston, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 17th day of June 2025.

A blue ink signature of Mayor Don Hardy, which includes the name "Don" and "Hardy".

Mayor Don Hardy