

The City of Savannah
Georgia



Proclamation

WHEREAS: *On September 22, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln issued a Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that 'All persons held as slaves on the 1st of January, 1863 in any state or parts of states then in rebellion, should be then, thenceforward, and forever free.'; and*

WHEREAS: *The first abolitionist organization, The Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1775; and*

WHEREAS: *Abolitionists and anti-slavery activists was a group of highly educated Northern men and women from all walks of life, both ex-slaves and free men and women of color and Whites, that represented only a small fraction of the U.S. population, nonetheless, had a large influence on the political discussion of the day, calling for the end of what was called 'the peculiar institution' of slavery; and*

WHEREAS: *The contributions of the work of these individuals and organizations made it possible for President Abraham Lincoln to abolish slavery on January 1, 1863, when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation and subsequent signing of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ending slavery nationwide on January 31, 1865, freeing more than four million African Americans from slavery; and*

WHEREAS: *The Center for Jubilee, Reconciliation and Healing is the host of the second national exhibit, 'Slaves in the City, on December 21, 2018 that pays homage to their contributions to American history; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eddie W. DeLoach, Mayor of the City of Savannah, do hereby proclaim December 21, 2018 as:

'JUBILEE FREEDOM DAY'

in the City of Savannah, in recognition 154 years of freedom, circa 1864 to 2018.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Savannah, Georgia to be affixed.

Mayor's Signature Required