PROCLAMATION
JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY
JUNE 19, 2020

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States and the emancipation of African American slaves and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 with news that the war had ended and the enslaved were now free. On that first Juneteenth, the people of Texas were read General Order Number 3, which stated: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free"; and

WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer and the gathering of family members. Today, Juneteenth continues to grow within communities and organizations throughout the country. Numerous local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen alongside older organizations with the common mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are the core of the American dream; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 11:00 AM, Faith in Florida and NAACP hosted a prayer service at the Martin County Courthouse in Stuart, Florida and encouraged all residents to celebrate it as a day of remembrance and celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL J. MEIER, Mayor of the City of Stuart, Florida do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020, as

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stuart, Florida to be affixed this ____ day of June, 2020.

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MICHAEL J. MEIER
MAYOR