



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Martin Luther King Festival was first organized in 1970 by students from the Santa Rosa Junior College to continue the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in April 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival took on a new meaning with the recognition of Dr. King's Birthday as a federal holiday, designated on the third Monday in January; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrates the day when those enslaved in Galveston, Texas, finally received word of their freedom on June 19, 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, the local Martin Luther King/Juneteenth Festival was born to keep the dream of Dr. King and the spirit of the Juneteenth alive in Santa Rosa and is observed by many communities across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Festival will take place on Saturday, June 16, 2018, and will feature live entertainment, food, basketball games, arts and crafts, dominoes, and kids' activities, as well as the premiere of "Unshackled" by Legacy Showcases, a ground-breaking performance that takes the audience back to a post-Civil War Southern plantation as news of emancipation for African slaves is declared; and

**WHEREAS**, the event is free and open to the public with fun for all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations such as the North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce, Red Rose Catering, Safe Harbor Project, Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Swift Finishing Inc., Santa Rosa Junior College's Black Student Union, and 100 Black Men of Sonoma County invite the community to celebrate with us.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Chris Coursey, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim June 16, 2018 as

**Martin Luther King/Juneteenth Day**



Mayor Chris Coursey  
June 5, 2018