



**City of Traverse City Proclamation  
Declaring June 19, 2020 through August 25, 2020**

**A period of reflection, cultural and public education, assessment, planning  
and commitment to end systemic racism and all forms of dehumanization**

June 19, 2020 best known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day, marked the 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of African Americans learning of the end of enslavement. The 400 Years of African American History Commission (400 YAAHC) vows to continue to educate the public about, recognize, and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619 and acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced radical discrimination had on the United States.

America must never forget or repeat its vivid and tragic examples of African American history which expose the dehumanizing effects of racial violence. Enslavement, lynchings, racial massacres, segregation, voter disfranchisement, mass incarceration are all examples of the violence inflicted.

We must collectively strive to affirm the promise of the Declaration of Independence that all people have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and we must reject acts of violence and expand opportunities to understand and learn from our frank and complex conversations.

Therefore, I, Jim Carruthers, Mayor of Traverse City, respectfully join municipal leaders across the country and the 400 YAAHC in spirit and solidarity, and encourage all citizens to commit to end systemic racism and all forms of dehumanization which threaten equality and freedom for all.



A blue ink signature of Jim Carruthers.

Jim Carruthers, Mayor  
City of Traverse City