



**Office of the County Executive**  
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**For Immediate Release**

**June 10, 2021**

**Washington County to Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Day with Proclamation, Speakers,  
Youth Group Performance on June 19**

**West Bend, WI** – In recognition of the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, Washington County is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the Historic Washington County Courthouse, 320 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., beginning at 11 a.m.

Juneteenth commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States. The event dates back to June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were free. This was more than two years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863.

“Juneteenth Day is an important cultural event because it not only helps us to remember the difficult history of enslavement in the United States, but also provides an opportunity for our great community to celebrate its significance together,” said County Executive Josh Schoemann.

In addition to County Executive Schoemann’s proclamation presentation, the Juneteenth Day celebration will feature:

- Welcome and emcee – Pastor Walter Henderson III of Berean Family Worship Center in Germantown, Wis.;
- Speaker – Eugene Pitchford, professor at Concordia University;
- Speaker – Orlando Owens, Southeast Regional Director for U.S. Senator Ron Johnson;
- Singers – Youth group from Peace Lutheran Church in Hartford, Wis., who will perform the National Anthem and “Lift Every Voice” and;
- Refreshments will be served following the program.

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