OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, "Juneteenth" is the holiday observed by African Americans on June 19th to celebrate when all Africans in the United States legally gained their freedom; and

WHEREAS, in 1861, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Virginia, and Tennessee seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. The Civil War began when they attacked Fort Sumter; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 1862, President Lincoln stated, "My paramount objective is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing one slave I would do it"; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was delivered only freeing the slaves in the Confederate States. President Lincoln considered this declaration an act of "military necessity" and invited the former slaves to join the Union's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln signed the Thirteenth Amendment February 1, 1865 abolishing slavery throughout the United States; and

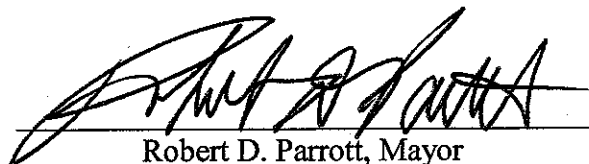**WHEREAS,** the Civil War ended April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, the slaves in Texas received the message of freedom. That is where the name "Juneteenth" (June 19th) was developed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert D. Parrott, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2007 as

JUNETEENTH DAY

in Greenville.

This 7th day of June, 2007.

Robert D. Parrott, Mayor