

Mayoral Proclamation

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, written in 1776, states:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, the contradiction between slavery and the Declaration of Independence was addressed when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which set in motion the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, slavery ended when the Confederate states surrendered on April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, enslavers in Texas were able to hide their Civil War defeat until June 19, 1865, when the United States Military arrived to announce that the more than 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were free; and

WHEREAS, Brookings will be celebrating Juneteenth at Pioneer Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor of the City of Brookings, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2026 as:

JUNETEENTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Brookings, this 9th day of June, 2026.

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor