



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Austin James
Lead Community Relations Assistant
(972) 218-1303 office
(972) 218-2609 fax
ajames@lancaster-tx.com

Lancaster Joins Best Southwest Cities in Cedar Hill for the Juneteenth Arts and Music Festival

Lancaster, TX – President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Although rumors of freedom for the slaves were widespread, actual emancipation for slaves in Texas did not come until two and half years later when General Gerdon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas issuing General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865. As the news spread, thousands flooded the streets of Galveston, rejoicing in their newfound freedom and celebration with song, dance and prayer; creating the day we now celebrate as Juneteenth to commemorate African American freedom. Today, these same celebrations are an opportunity to remember the past, recognize the significant contributions of African Americans, celebrate our diversity, and reinforce our hope for the future.

The City of Lancaster is pleased to join the cities of Duncanville, DeSoto, and Cedar Hill in the Best Southwest Juneteenth Arts and Music Festival, *Celebrating Freedom through Diversity*, honoring the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. This year's Juneteenth Festival will be hosted by the City of Cedar Hill on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Drive, Cedar Hill. Activities include food vendors, a variety of art by local artist, crafts in the Kids on the Hill Creative Arts Zone, musical performances and much more. Entertainment on the main stage includes performances by Rattletree of Austin, Texas, Memphis Soul of Dallas, Texas and the infamous and nationally known Dazz Band, whose biggest hit songs include the Grammy Award-winning "Let It Whip". You don't want to miss this evening of community celebrations, great music, and arts, all for FREE! For more information about the BSW Juneteenth Arts and Music Festival, hosted by the City of Cedar Hill, please visit www.cedarhillpard.wix.com/Juneteenth.

The City of Lancaster invites you to "like" the City on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or register for weekly e-mail alerts regarding upcoming events on our website at www.lancaster-tx.com by clicking on "Notify Me".

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