Farmingville, NY – On June 16, Supervisor Ed Romaine (center) and Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright (second from left) attended the Town of Brookhaven’s annual Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Black History Commission. The event was held at the historic Longwood Estate in Ridge. It celebrated the 153rd Anniversary of the end of slavery in 1865 and included a BBQ picnic, games, music, dancing and activities for children.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had officially ended and the enslaved were now free. This came two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery was not abolished throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th Constitutional Amendment on December 6, 1865.