

Legistar ID No.: _____

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

FOR: Council Meeting of June 1, 2021

FROM:

City Council Member D'Andre Jones

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

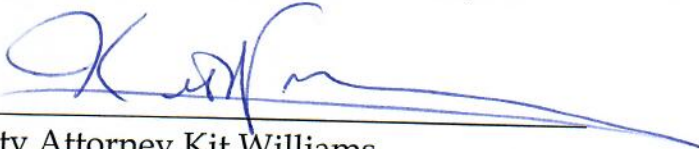
A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE TO RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

See email

City Council Member D'Andre Jones

Date



City Attorney Kit Williams
(as to form)

May 7, 2021

Date

Williams, Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Williams, Kit
Subject: Re: Resolution for the City of Fayetteville to observe JUNETEENTH as an official holiday.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Kit

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2021, at 9:39 AM, Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov> wrote:

D'Andre,

Attached is the Agenda Request form for you to sign to place your Juneteenth Resolution on the agenda. I plan to also attach your email of May 4th to serve as the agenda memo since you have done a good job of explaining how Juneteenth began and why it should be celebrated. Once I receive your signed agenda request form, I will place your item into Legistar for the June 1st meeting.

Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Subject: Re: Resolution for the City of Fayetteville to observe JUNETEENTH as an official holiday.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sounds good

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2021, at 5:29 PM, Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov> wrote:

D'Andre,

As you have seen from the tentative Agenda for May 15th, we have very many items on it. So much so that the Mayor was trying to remove some staff items so the City Council would not have such a long meeting that night. He asked me to request that you place this on the June 1st Meeting which should still give plenty of time to hopefully announce the adoption of a new holiday during this year's celebrations.

Please review this draft and let me know of any changes that you would like.

Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 7:21 PM

To: Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>

Subject: Resolution for the City of Fayetteville to observe JUNETEENTH as an official holiday.

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Resolution for the City of Fayetteville to observe JUNETEENTH as an official holiday. The following organizations and elected individuals stand in solidarity to observe JUNETEENTH as an official holiday.

The Historic St James Baptist Church

Fellowship of Champions Church

The NWA NAACP

The Black Action Collective

Perry Broadcasting Group

University of Arkansas Black Alumni Society

NWA Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated

Mayor Jordan's African American Advisory Council

University of Arkansas Black Employee Group

Omicron Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.,

The Honorable Shawndra Washington Washington County Quorum Court

NWA MLK Council

PHA Hill City Masonic Lodge #347

For 150 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African American holiday observance in the United States. Also known as "Emancipation Day", "Emancipation

Celebration", "Freedom Day", "Jun-Jun", "Juneteenth Independence Day" and "Juneteenth." Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates survival, due to God-given strength and determination, of African Americans, who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across The Atlantic Ocean is known as the "Middle Passage"; and

Approximately eleven and one-half million African Americans survived the voyage to the New World, the number that died is likely greater, only to be subjected to whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families, and forced to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after the arrival in the United States; and

Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. For the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration, Juneteenth has finally been "officially recognized" as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

This reality is particularly underscored by the fact that it was in the 1st session of the 105th Congress via the bipartisan cooperation of the Former Congresswoman Barbara Rose-Collins (D-Michigan), Former Senator Carol Mosely-Braun (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma), Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), that Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 were successfully shepherded through both Houses of Congress, in a successful effort to officially recognize Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent in 1997; and

Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries-of-origin, share in a common love of and respect for "freedom", as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "tenets-of-freedom" are guaranteed and protected. The "19th of June" or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the "4th of July", completes the "cycle of freedom" for America's Independence Day observances. "Until All are Free, none are Free" is an oft-repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States.

This resolution hereby resolves for the City of Fayetteville to observe Juneteenth as a formal, paid city holiday, encouraging education and community service among its employees and staff beginning June 19th, 2022. The resolution proposes for the city hall to be closed and essential staff able to take the day off another time. The resolution calls for the day to be notated as Juneteenth on any official websites, notices, or publications relating to or referencing this day. The resolution goes on to call on all persons to reflect on the history of African American slavery in the United States and encourages individuals to observe the day by volunteering with, giving recognition to, or otherwise supporting organizations in Fayetteville working to advance equity and social justice for African American residents.

To learn more about Juneteenth visit: Juneteenth.Com

Best Regards,

D'Andre L. Jones - MSW, MA
Fayetteville City Council
Ward 1 Position 2

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.