

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 2, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item – June 14, 2023 – Juneteenth Flag Resolution**

On the June 14, 2023 Council Agenda is a resolution to direct the city manager to fly the Juneteenth Flag on the flagpole at City Hall and other City operated facilities in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag from June 16 to June 19, 2023 and annually thereafter on June 19, to celebrate Juneteenth.

The City of Dallas is committed to the pursuit of initiatives that promote equity and inclusion and ending discrimination, prejudice, and injustice, and further recognizing Juneteenth celebrates freedom and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth provides an opportunity to celebrate African American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices and contributions that are woven into the American fabric.

Should you have any questions, please contact Nikki D. Christmas, Interim Director of the Mayor and City Council Office, at (214) 422-9222 or nikki.christmas@dallas.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Gavino'.

Genesis D. Gavino
Chief of Staff to the City Manager
and Resilience Officer

[Attachment]

c: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Robert Perez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Office
Directors and Assistant Directors

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Workforce, Education, & Equity
AGENDA DATE: June 14, 2023
COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All
DEPARTMENT: Mayor and City Council Office
EXECUTIVE: T.C. Broadnax

SUBJECT

A resolution amending Resolution No. 21-0777 to direct the city manager to fly the Juneteenth Flag on the flagpole at City Hall (1500 Marilla) and other City operated facilities in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag from June 16 to June 19, 2023 and annually thereafter on June 19, to celebrate Juneteenth Month – Financing: No cost consideration to the City

BACKGROUND

The City of Dallas is committed to the pursuit of initiatives that promote equity and inclusion and ending discrimination, prejudice, and injustice, and further recognizing Juneteenth celebrates freedom and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln effective January 1, 1863, freeing all enslaved. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years following the order, union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the president's order.

Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the exploitation of African American bodies and wealth continued past slavery and persists. Thus, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, homeownership and education of African American people.

June 19 has been celebrated in communities across the nation as Juneteenth also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day

Juneteenth provides an opportunity to celebrate African American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices and contributions that are woven into the American fabric.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

On May 22, 2019, the City Council passed a resolution that outlines Dallas' deep resolved to promote equity and inclusion by Resolution No. 19-0804.

On May 12, 2021, the City Council amended Resolution No. 20-0945 to direct the city manager to fly the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas Seal on the flagpole at City Hall (1500 Marilla) and other City operated facilities in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the month of June 2021, and annually thereafter, for the month of June by Resolution No. 21-0777.

On September 22, 2021, the City Council proclaimed Juneteenth to be a City Holiday by City Council bringing awareness and consciousness to a crucial day in history by Resolution No. 21-1958; Ordinance No. 32005.

On June 18, 2023, the City Council approved a resolution directing the city manager to fly on the flagpole at City Hall Plaza the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas Seal in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the remainder of June 2020, and annually thereafter for the month of June to celebrate Pride Month by Resolution No. 20-0945.

FISCAL INFORMATION

No cost consideration to the City.

June 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas is committed to the pursuit of initiatives that promote equity and inclusion and ending discrimination, prejudice, and injustice, and further recognizing Juneteenth celebrates freedom and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln effective January 1, 1863, that all persons enslaved within the rebellious states shall be freed. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years following the order, union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the president's order; and

WHEREAS, through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the exploitation of African American bodies and wealth continued past slavery and persists, thus, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, homeownership, and education of African American people; and

WHEREAS, June 19 has been celebrated in communities across the nation as Juneteenth also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides an opportunity to celebrate African American heritage and honor the lives, sacrifices, and contributions that are woven into the American fabric; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ms. Opal Lee also known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," launched "Opal's Walk 2 D.C." to invite others across the country to join her in bringing attention to the importance of commemorating Juneteenth as a federal holiday and the fight for freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 89, Ms. Lee walked from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington, D.C. leaving in September 2016 and arriving in Washington, D.C. in January 2017; and

WHEREAS, on June 2021, U.S. Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, a day after the U.S. Senate passed the bill with unanimous consent and President Joseph Biden signed the bill into law on June 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, City Council passed Ordinance No. 32005 proclaiming Juneteenth to be a City Holiday thereby bringing awareness and consciousness to a crucial day in history and is a distinct step towards equity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 19-0804 that outlines Dallas' deep resolve to promote equity and inclusion in all aspects of city government and committed to make every effort possible to commit more resources to areas and populations where data demonstrates the needs are greatest; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, City Council passed Resolution No. 20-0945 directing the city manager to fly the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the remainder of June 2020, and annually thereafter for the month of June, to celebrate Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2021, City Council passed Resolution No. 21-0503 known as the Racial Equity Resolution, to reaffirm Dallas' commitment to work towards understanding and addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2021, City Council passed Resolution No. 21-0777, which amended Resolution No. 20-0945, directing the city manager to fly the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza and other City operated facilities in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag for the remainder of June 2021, and annually thereafter for the month of June, to celebrate Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2022, City Council passed Resolution No. 22-1236 adopting the first Comprehensive Racial Equity Plan and immediately began implementing the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas will continue to build and share histories related to civil rights through intentional collaborative efforts with external stakeholders.

Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. The City of Dallas does hereby declare June 19, also known as Juneteenth, as an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of African American economic liberation and those who work towards that liberation.

SECTION 2. The City of Dallas recognizes Juneteenth as an annual legal holiday within the City beginning June 19, 2021.

SECTION 3. That Resolution No. 21-0777 is amended to direct the city manager to fly the Juneteenth Flag on the flag pole at City Hall Plaza and other City operated facilities from June 16, 2023 through June 19, 2023, and annually thereafter, from June 18 through June 20, in place of the City of Dallas Official Flag and the Pride Flag with the City of Dallas seal, to celebrate Juneteenth.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly resolved.