



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 8, 2024 Agenda Item 4

### **Voting Session**

Resolution providing City Council's support of the Maple Community Association's (MCA) Juneteenth Celebration on the Lee Jordan Field.

### **Recommended Council Action**

Vote on a resolution to support the Maple Community Association's Juneteenth Celebration in the form of staff time as they assist in organizing, planning, and developing relationships to provide a day of support for this event.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The Maple Community Association first approached the City about hosting an event in 2023. Unfortunately, it was too close to the date for the City to be able to participate.

This year, the Maple Community Association began discussions with the City at the beginning of March and has applied for and received a permit to use Lee Jordan Field at Takoma Park Middle School on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. The event will take place from 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm with time to set up and tear down as well. The MCA plans to have a stage with music, dancers, poetry and famous speech recitations, as well as remarks from all levels of Maryland government. They will also offer food trucks, bounce houses, face painting, information tables, and possibly a "Touch-a-Truck" section with the Takoma Park Fire Department.

Government officials they plan to invite:

1. Representative Jamie Raskin – confirmed and speaking
2. Governor Wes Moore- not confirmed
3. State Senator Will Smith- not confirmed
4. Delegate David Moon- will be invited
5. Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins- will be invited
6. Delegate Lorig Charkoudian- will be invited
7. County Executive Marc Elrich- not confirmed
8. Former Mayor Kate Stewart- confirmed
9. Mayor Talisha Searcy- confirmed

### **Council Priority**

Advancing a Community of Belonging  
Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

### **Environmental Considerations**

Maple Community Association is working with the City for trash and recycling options, as well as a noise waiver, and will make the neighborhood surrounding Lee Jordan Field aware of the event and the elevated noise levels during the celebration.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

Approved by: Robert DiSpirito, City Manager  
Prepared by: Christine Heidebrecht, Executive Assistant to CMO

Posted 4/26/2024

Implementation of the recommendation would need to be considered in conjunction with the City's current budget and financial capabilities. Due to this not being included in the FY2024 Adopted Budget, there will be some unexpected expenses due to overtime pay for staff to work on the holiday.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

Per the National Museum of African American History & Culture- "Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times." By joining the celebration, the City of Takoma Park is providing an opportunity for more Americans to value the importance of the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **Attachments and Links**

National Museum of African American History & Culture-

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-xx**

**SUPPORT FOR THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

WHEREAS, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1619; and

WHEREAS, Black people were bought and sold as slave labor for 250 years and suffered unspeakable acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the enslaved people in the South. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the president’s order, freeing the enslaved two and a half years after it was first decreed. This day has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, and the police violence against Black bodies continued throughout our Country’s history and perpetuated the racist legal and social systems that persist to this day; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the history of racism in our country and how it has led to many current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and healthcare, as well as disproportionate incarceration rates for Black people; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 President Biden signed legislation that made Juneteenth a federal holiday, and the City Council adopted Ordinance 2021-41 recognizing Juneteenth as an annual day of remembrance and a paid City holiday; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is home to the Maple Community Association, founded in 2023, and whose focus includes to “...strengthen and empower their lives both inside the home and in the surrounding community...”; and

WHEREAS, supporting a Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Maple Community Association advances the Council priorities of “Advancing a Community of Belonging” and of “Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life” .

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Takoma Park supports the Maple Community Association in its goal of celebrating Juneteenth with a family-oriented festival by offering staff assistance in organizing, planning, developing relationships, and providing day-of support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in partnership with the Maple Community Association the City will co-host the Juneteenth Celebration, on June 19, 2024.

Adopted this xxth day of April, 2024.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter  
City Clerk