

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14**

**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

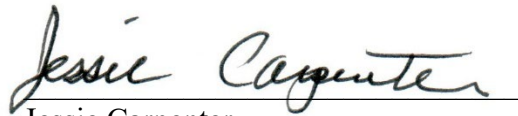
**WHEREAS,** supporting a Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Maple Community Association advances the Council priorities of “Advancing a Community of Belonging” and of “Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life”.

**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 9th day of May, 2024.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jessie Carpenter  
City Clerk