

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **CHAIR**

- Licenses Committee

### **VICE CHAIR**

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development



### **MEMBER**

- Citizen Anti-Displacement Advisory Committee
- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Library Board
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Steering and Rules Committee

**MILELE A. COGGS**  
ALDERWOMAN, 6TH DISTRICT

# **Long overdue, Juneteenth finally becomes a federal holiday**

**Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg  
June 18, 2021**

I have celebrated Juneteenth my whole life. The parade route was literally right outside of my house growing up. I have had the honor of being crowned Miss Juneteenth and my daughter has served as Little Miss Juneteenth. I have come to see Juneteenth Day as not just a celebration, but a time of reflection, restoration, and renewal.

It was this time last year that the Common Council passed a file in support of Juneteenth Day becoming a federal holiday. Now, one year later, this is a reality thanks to the action taken by President Biden.

Juneteenth Day is the day, June 19, 1865, that the last enslaved people of African descent in Galveston, TX were notified by General Granger of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (two years prior) resulting in their physical freedom.

It is about time that our nation recognize this important holiday, which has been celebrated by African Americans for well over 120 years. Such an action is long overdue and it is my hope that it will open the door for progress of legislation on everything from voting rights to reparations.

Reflecting on the storied past of this country and the institution of slavery is a critical part of the day -- as is taking time to restore physically, mentally, and emotionally from the daily impact of our past, along with looking to the future with renewed inspiration and focus to continue to work on how we each can help move our community and nation forward. With this in mind I hope that people celebrate this holiday with a greater intention and take a moment to reflect on the importance of this day.

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Milwaukee is home to one of the longest standing Juneteenth Day celebrations in the United States, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of our celebrations here. The events of the day will be held in person this year, and are free and open to the public and masks are required. The kickoff parade starts at 8 a.m. from 14th and Atkinson and will travel to W. Burleigh and N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. The official program starts at 9:30 a.m. near MLK Dr. and Locust St.

The fight for freedom and equity are far from over, but the federal designation is a step in the right direction. I look forward to seeing everyone as we celebrate Juneteenth Day 2021 tomorrow with the nation.

Happy Juneteenth Day Milwaukee!

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