
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 17, 2011

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
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Juneteenth Marks 40th Milwaukee Anniversary on Sunday

Milwaukee's 40th Annual **Juneteenth Day** celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 19th on N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, said **Alderman Milele A. Coggs**.

Alderman Coggs, whose 6th Aldermanic District is home to the celebration (on MLK Dr. between W. Center and W. Burleigh Streets), will be participating in the parade and will also have a 6th District information booth at this year's Juneteenth. "The event is free and it is held in honor of freedom and independence," she said. "I strongly encourage families to attend the 40th Annual Juneteenth Day celebration, which is themed to celebrate fathers since it is also held on Father's Day this year."

The opening ceremony will be held at noon on the main stage near W. Burleigh St. on MLK Dr. **The parade route for this year's celebration will begin at Green Bay Avenue School, 3872 N. 8th St. – not on Atkinson Ave. as is usual practice.**

This year's festivities are co-sponsored by Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc., WE Energies, Milwaukee County Transit System, MillerCoors, Beer Capitol Distributors, Gruber Law Offices, LLC, Historic King Drive Business Improvement District, BloodCenter of Wisconsin, Hupy & Abraham Law Office, Jam 98.3, V100.7, WMCS 1290, WNOV 860, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Times*, *Milwaukee Community Journal*, and Bell Ambulance.

The celebration includes, live music, entertainment and exhibits, soul food, kids games, local community organization and agency booths, local African dance groups, and much more.

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Juneteenth Marks 40th/ADD ONE

The annual Juneteenth Day Celebration is a national event commemorating when freedom was proclaimed to all enslaved people of African descent 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. June 19th is a state holiday and is officially recognized as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States.

Alderwoman Coggs said Juneteenth Day commemorates and emphasizes education and achievement through a day, a week, or a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, a cookout and family gatherings recognizing the past in order to continue to build a stronger future.

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