



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Juneteenth Day a time for reflection, celebration

**Statement of Alderman Cavalier Johnson, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Mark Borkowski, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderman Scott Spiker, Alderman Marina Dimitrijevic and Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II**

Juneteenth Day commemorates the moment in history on June 19, 1865 when the final enslaved Africans in the United States were granted their freedom in Galveston, Texas. This year, Juneteenth Day holds even more significance as the people in our city, state and country work to make sure their voices are heard regarding issues of racial equality. With this in mind we hope that people celebrate today with a greater intention and take a moment to reflect on the importance of this day and how we can all play a part in moving our community forward.

Milwaukee is home to one of the longest standing Juneteenth Day celebrations in the country and while we can't celebrate in quite the same fashion this year, the City was able to start the day with a raising of the Juneteenth Day flag outside the Zeidler Municipal Building, an effort led by Alderwoman Lewis. This was just one of many smaller events taking place throughout Milwaukee today, and for those participating in community celebrations remember to wear a mask, practice proper social distancing, and have fun.

Happy Juneteenth Day Milwaukee!