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MICHAEL J. MURPHY
ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

Juneteenth Day important now more than ever

Statement of Alderman Michael J. Murphy June 19, 2020

It has been great seeing the tremendous amount of support for Juneteenth Day that has come forward during the past few days.

I have long been proud of the storied Juneteenth celebration in Milwaukee and the way the community comes together in unity to celebrate this important day. It is a proud tradition and its meaning and significance is, I believe, more important to recognize today than ever before.

The emancipation from enslavement is part of America, it is our history, and it is worth celebrating with festive energy and unity. I just want everyone who is celebrating to make sure they do it safely and avoid gatherings where people might not be able to be socially distant or where there are not enough attendees wearing masks.

In the time of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we need to make sure we keep everyone safe – especially those most vulnerable – so we can all enjoy many more Juneteenths together!

I was proud to join nearly all of my colleagues earlier this week in co-sponsoring successful legislation (Council file # 200272) directing the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of legislation establishing Juneteenth Day as a federal holiday. The file was introduced by **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** and co-sponsored by myself and Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderman Cavalier Johnson and Alderman Nik Kovac.

Just as we come together to celebrate the 4th of July, I believe we should also celebrate Juneteenth Day as it represents a significant moment in history for many thousands of our fellow citizens and neighbors.

Just as we have seen huge numbers of people of all races, ethnicities and ages coming together to fight for justice, equality and fair treatment, I believe we should also come together to celebrate Juneteenth Day.

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