

**Building
Bridges
Across
The River**



1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE ♦ Washington, DC 20020
202-889-5901 ♦ buildingbridgesdc.org

Mr. Clinton Osborn, Acting Director
Emergency Management Agency
D. C. Mayor's Special Events Task Group
2720 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE,
2nd Floor Washington, DC 20032
dc.msetg@dc.gov

Dear Mr. Osborn:

On behalf of Building Bridges Across the River (Building Bridges), I am writing in support of a Juneteenth Parade along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor, located in Ward 7.

Juneteenth marks the day, June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous event symbolizes the end of one of the darkest chapters in American history and the beginning of a long and ongoing journey towards equality and justice for African Americans.

Hosting the Juneteenth parade in Ward 7 would provide an invaluable opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our shared history and culture. At Building Bridges, we are committed to amplifying the voices, stories, and experiences of residents living East of the River through the arts. This parade would do just that!

It would serve as an educational experience for all residents, particularly our youth, to learn about and reflect upon the significance of Juneteenth. Furthermore, it would be an occasion to honor local leaders and heroes who have contributed to the fight for equity.

Such an event would also enhance community cohesion and pride. The parade would be a vibrant display of our diverse cultural heritage, showcasing music, dance, and art that highlight the richness of African American traditions. This celebration would reinforce the values of freedom and equality while encouraging dialogue and understanding among all community members.

Additionally, hosting the Juneteenth parade in Ward 7 could have positive economic impacts, drawing people from other wards and neighboring areas. This event could also serve to boost support for local businesses and promote the unique character and strengths of the community.

The parade would be more than a celebration; it would be a reaffirmation of our commitment to remembering our history, honoring our culture, and working towards a more equitable future.

Building Bridges Across the River strongly supports this initiative and asks that you provide the necessary approvals that would help make this event a reality for the benefit of our entire community and the city of DC.

With gratitude,

Handwritten signature of Rahsaan Bernard in black ink.

Rahsaan Bernard

President, Building Bridges Across the River
rbernard@thearc.org | 202.889.5901 x104