



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ROBERT C. WHITE, JR
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, SUITE 107
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

September 9, 2024

Mr. Clint Osborn
Director
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
Mayor's Special Events Task Group
2720 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20032

Dear Director Osborn,

I am writing to express my support for a Juneteenth Parade along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor in Ward 7.

Juneteenth, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in 1865, holds profound historical significance. Although it originated in Texas, the celebration of Juneteenth is a vital reminder of the ongoing fight for equality and justice nationwide, including here in the District of Columbia, which has its own history of emancipation and struggle for civil rights. As a city with a rich African American heritage, Washington, DC is deeply connected to this celebration of freedom.

A Juneteenth Parade in Ward 7 would be a powerful way to honor this history while simultaneously showcasing the vibrant culture of the Ward 7 community. This event would offer a platform for local small businesses, artisans, and vendors to thrive, driving economic growth and encouraging investment in the area. Moreover, the parade would foster community pride, strengthen cultural ties, and highlight the rich traditions that define Ward 7.

I fully support the Ward 7 Juneteenth Planning Committee and their efforts to organize this parade. I believe this initiative will be a dynamic and uplifting event for the entire District, creating lasting cultural and economic benefits for the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.C. White, Jr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert C. White, Jr.
Councilmember-At-Large
Council of the District of Columbia