



**MARSHALL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC**  
3939 BENNING ROAD NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20019

**Babatunde Oloyede**  
President and CEO

**PHONE** (202) 650-5658

**FAX** (202) 396-4106

**EMAIL** [boloyede@mhcdo.org](mailto:boloyede@mhcdo.org)

**www.mhcdo.org**

June 24, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Osborn,

On behalf of the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. (MHCDO), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed Juneteenth parade along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor in Ward 7. This event holds significant cultural importance, presents substantial economic opportunities, and fosters invaluable community building within our vibrant neighborhood.

The Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. (MHCDO) is a non-profit community-based organization that has undertaken community development activities in Ward 7 of Washington, DC, since 1979. MHCDO's mission statement is to help grow Ward 7 into the District of Columbia's most welcoming, prospering, livable community for everyone. MHCDO provides services designed to increase affordable housing opportunities, expand economic opportunities, and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.

Juneteenth, celebrated annually on June 19th, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, and symbolizes the enduring fight for freedom and equality. Hosting a parade in our community not only honors this pivotal moment in history but also educates and inspires residents about the rich cultural heritage and resilience of African Americans. It is a celebration of freedom and a reaffirmation of our shared values of justice and equality.

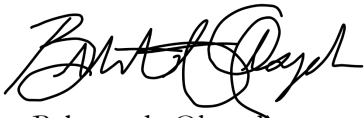
Economically, the Juneteenth parade provides a platform for local businesses to showcase their products and services, stimulating economic activity and promoting entrepreneurship. Vendors and small businesses from Ward 7 and beyond will benefit from increased visibility and the opportunity to engage with a diverse audience. This event is a catalyst for economic empowerment, driving foot traffic and generating revenue for local establishments.

Moreover, the parade is an excellent opportunity for community building. It brings together residents of all ages and backgrounds in a shared celebration, fostering a sense of unity and pride. Events like these strengthen the social fabric of our community, encourage civic engagement, and create lasting memories for participants. The sense of togetherness and solidarity that such an event engenders is invaluable for community morale and cohesion.

MHCDO is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the quality of life for District residents and contribute to the vitality of our community. The Juneteenth parade aligns perfectly with our mission, and we are excited about the positive impact it will have on Ward 7. We are ready to collaborate with your team to ensure the success of this significant event.

Thank you for considering our support. We look forward to the opportunity to work together to make the Juneteenth parade a memorable and impactful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Babatunde Oloyede', written in a cursive style.

Babatunde Oloyede