



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

VINCENT C. GRAY
Ward 7 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Hospital and Health Equity

Committee Member:
Business and Economic Development
Judiciary and Public Safety

July 16, 2024

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 in support of a Juneteenth Parade along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor, located in Ward 7.

The 19th of June, known as Juneteenth, marks the end of slavery in the United States when on June 19, 1865, a Union general read the Emancipation Proclamation to the last remaining enslaved African Americans, in Galveston, Texas, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. As part of the movement calling for making Juneteenth a holiday, I introduced legislation that prompted an executive order and codification of Juneteenth as a recognized holiday in the District of Columbia.

I am informed that the Ward 7 Juneteenth Parade Committee is planning to host a parade next year down Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and into Anacostia Park where the celebration will continue. I believe this parade will bring many benefits to all ages and phases of our local community, economically, communally, culturally and historically, as a galvanizing celebration. With that, I write in support of the Juneteenth Parade on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and I ask that you please consider the above in rendering your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "G".

Vincent C. Gray