



Tony A. Kearney, Sr., Executive Director

June 8, 2022

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderwoman Coggs,

Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc. is pleased to support the City of Milwaukee resolution coming before the Economic and Community Development Committee; regarding Juneteenth Day.

Northcott Neighborhood House backs the vision of the resolution that designates Juneteenth Day as an annual official City event in the city of Milwaukee. The resolution also authorizes the City Clerk’s Office to accept and expend donations for its support up to \$100,000 and to establish accounts for that purpose. Finally, the resolution adds Juneteenth Day to the Give MKE online donation platform.

Northcott Neighborhood House has led the charge to have one of the largest and one of the longest Juneteenth Celebrations in the Midwest for 51 years. Juneteenth Celebration started fifty-one years ago by two creative, conscious and innovative women, Jan Kemp and Margaret Henningsen.

Juneteenth has been nestled on Dr. Martin L. King Jr Drive (former Third Street) and Milwaukee County Bernice and Clinton Rose Park (former Garfield Park). Juneteenth, just became an federal holiday in 2021, is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, observed annually on June 19.

In 2021 Northcott Neighborhood House celebrated fifty years with the Juneteenth Golden 50th Celebration; with its awesome sponsors, partners, donors, volunteers and staff had a month-long celebration. The theme The Ms. Juneteenth, Mr. Juneteenth, Junior Miss Juneteenth and Juneteenth Jr. Scholarship Pageant gave youth over \$25,000 in scholarships for attaining goals in essay writing, talent, public speaking and grades. In 2021 The Because of them We Can Event recognized Milwaukee’s Pioneers and Trailblazers who have made a difference with an evening of recognition and honor. Culminated with a Jubilee Parade and day-long street festival along Dr. Martin L. King Drive, featuring a new Kids Zone area, featuring free food, amusement rides, games and attractions.

The 2022 Juneteenth festivities have already started; last week we had the Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant this weekend we are celebrating fathers and honoring visionaries, pioneers and trailblazers who have given so much to advocate for freedom, equality, justice and inclusion. We thank you for your partnership and we know this resolution will assist in continuance and expansion of providing the education, history and cultural for everyone.

Sincerely,

Tony A. Kearney, Sr.

Executive Director
Northcott Neighborhood House
President of Juneteenth

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