

By COUNCIL MEMBER AYERS:

RESOLUTION
FOR
COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH AS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK
ECONOMIC LIBERATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is recognized as the end of chattel slavery in the United States and liberation from the greatest robbery of black wealth in our country's history; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, freeing the slaves in the South. However, southern slave owners ignored that order. On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas and enforced the president's order, freeing the slaves two and a half years after it was first decreed. This day has since come to be known as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Through other systems of oppression, such as sharecropping, Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, the plunder of black bodies and black wealth continued past slavery and persists to this day, affecting the physical and mental health, safety, and education of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Liberation from these systems of oppression must include black economic liberation. This liberation is manifested in ways such as financial literacy, access to loans, jobs, and the means of self-improvement, and the ability to own the land in one's own neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Many African Americans have worked and continue to work to build wealth within the black community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council recognizes Juneteenth, June 19, as an annual celebration of the past, present, and future of black economic liberation and those who work towards that liberation.