



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Vice Mayor Chappie Jones
District 1

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 27, 2021

APPROVED: *Chappie Jones*

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT MEMO: APPROVAL OF JUNETEENTH CITY HALL LIGHTING DISPLAY SPONSORED BY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 AS A CITY COUNCIL SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT TO EXTEND CITY FUNDS AND ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE EVENT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the City Hall Lighting Display Event for the celebration of Juneteenth, scheduled for June 19th, 2021 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of the funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the June 15, 2021 Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution 72517 which requires Councilmembers to submit a memorandum to the Rules Committee regarding proposed City Council sponsored Special Events and the proposed use of any funds.

The City Hall lighting display is set to celebrate Juneteenth as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; a day which commemorates Black and African-American freedom and achievements while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger and federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to share the news that the war had ended, to take control of the state and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation marking the effective end of slavery in the United States. The word "Juneteenth" became the name for the joyous celebration of freedom from slavery as a result of

the words “June Nineteenth” combined together in speech. Juneteenth is celebrated in more than 200 American cities and is officially recognized by 46 states. As a city rich in diversity, it is our duty to celebrate June Nineteenth by acknowledging and reflecting on a day that changed the trajectory of the lives of most Blacks and African Americans being held as slaves in the United States.

The lighting of the Rotunda and City Hall Tower will include the colors of the Juneteenth flag: red, white, and blue, which includes a bursting white nova star in the middle. The star represents Texas, the Lone Star State, where Union soldiers informed the country’s last remaining enslaved people that they were free. The three colors represent the American flag, as a reminder that slaves and their descendents were and are Americans. While African-Americans are still fighting for equality and justice today, these colors symbolize their continuous commitment in the United States to live up to the American ideals of liberty and justice for all.

ANALYSIS

City Council Policy 7-14, City Hall Event Lighting Policy, Sections B.1 and C.1 allows Rotunda and Tower lighting in conjunction with proclamations for official actions or ceremonial items as approved by City Council.

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council’s prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Councilmember Chappie Jones will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on their Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 1, City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City’s normal financial and budgetary procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City’s Website for the June 2, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda and the June 15, 2021 City Council Agenda.

CEQA

- Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment.
- Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.
- Exempt, File No. PP12-080. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.
- Exempt, File No. PP13-056, Activities associated with citywide litter clean-up activities.
- Exempt, File No. PP11-046, Graffiti removal services.

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Subject: City Hall Lighting Event in honor of Juneteenth

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Reviewed by:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.