

Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Committee

PURPOSE: To establish a Citywide celebratory Juneteenth program to commemorate that on June 19, 1865 – more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas realized their freedom. The City’s Juneteenth Planning Committee will invite others to join in a day of recognition, reflection, and celebration of the freedom and resilience that this day represents. Juneteenth is a City of Laurel Official Holiday.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE** is the official planning committee for the City of Laurel, to develop a community-wide annual Juneteenth Celebration. The Planning Committee will expand its efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion, with the goal to provide meaningful interactions that improve community relations, encourage collaboration, and bring forth a sense of pride. This observance of the emancipation of slaves in the United States will be focused on education, the arts, supporting local businesses, and unification. The Planning Committee may work with other non-profit organizations and local educational institutions. The celebration will promote, as well as provide a wealth of educational and health resources that will infuse the arts to enhance each attendee’s understanding of African American Culture. The City’s goal is to have a fun filled day, full of safe activities, community awards, contests, and games for all to enjoy.

PROGRAM SPEAKER: At least one speaker shall highlight the event and speak about the meaning of the celebration.

STAFF: Mayor and City Council Offices’, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Communications will have staff assigned, as needed.

MONTH OF YEAR: June

DAY OF MONTH: On or around June 19th

LOCATION: City of Laurel - Community-wide

TIME: To be determined (TBD) by committee

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: TBD

APPOINTMENTS: Appointments to the Executive Committee shall be made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall be made up of twelve (12) members of the community. The Executive Committee shall set the budget, appoint sub-committees as may be needed, document minutes of the meetings, set time and location of planning meetings. Two members of the City Council may serve as ex-officio members. No City funds may be expended, or contracts signed by the Executive Committee without the approval of the City Administrator or designee.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: The Mayor shall appoint the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Vice Chair, Secretary and other positions of leadership shall be elected by the Executive Committee members. The City Council positions may not serve as Chair or Vice Chair but may be appointed to Chair of sub-committees.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: The Planning Committee shall be made up of the Executive Committee members, as well as others who wish to volunteer their time to plan the Juneteenth Celebrations. The Planning Committee will also have the responsibility to make sure the event has volunteers, if needed to help set up, run, and clean up for the celebration.

MEETINGS: Meetings shall be called by the Chair. Meetings shall be held at least bi-monthly. Meetings shall be open to the Public and held in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. Meeting may be held in person or virtually.