

January 20, 2021

Attn: Honorable Jamal Williams  
City of Plano  
Re: Juneteenth Holiday

To the Honorable Members,

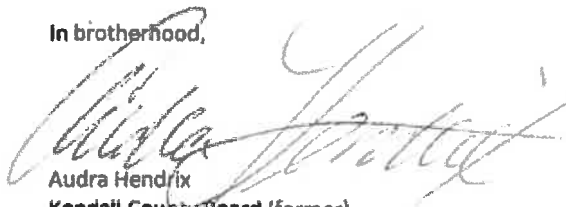
Those that live in the country most demanding of freedom could be forgiven for feeling as though Juneteenth is an unnecessary addition to the celebrations that already mark the struggle of men toward freedom ; 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day and others are set to insure that those who follow, never forget the price paid by those who came before. We indelibly mark these struggles and successes on the nation, it's states, cities and its small towns in every celebration. Our collective promise to the brave souls that came before - we will not forget the lives and fortunes sacrificed, and relentless sorrow given freely - can never be set aside.

Juneteenth represents the deep and enduring struggle manifested in the hearts of all Americans toward freedom, equality, equanimity and yes, love. In this fight, we have too often put aside the contributions and sacrifice of our brothers and sisters, equals in the eyes of God and the law, to avoid uncomfortable and often ugly truth. We will never move beyond this division until we recognize and celebrate all who have brought us to our freedom. We can never believe in freedom until we have freedom for all. We can never assure that history teaches us if we fail to mark its lessons.

At it's most basic level, Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom; without condition or qualification. I urge you all to recognize the importance of of our complete and honest history as the best guardian against all its enemies and mark its importance this year and every year.

Please include Juneteenth to your holiday calendar - It's the very least we can do.

In brotherhood,



Audra Hendrix  
Kendall County Board (former)  
Yorkville, IL 60560

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SPECIAL ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

**DAVID ALLEN WELTER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 75<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

January 20, 2021

Honorable Mayor Bob Hausler & City Council Members  
City of Plano  
17 E Main Street  
Plano, IL 60545

Dear Mayor Hausler and City of Plano Aldermen,

I am writing to express my support for adding Juneteenth as an official holiday in the City of Plano. I stand in solidarity with community members working toward social justice and efforts to recognize the importance of the historical and contemporary contributions of African-Americans in the State of Illinois and across the United States.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it is now celebrated annually on the 19th of June throughout the United States. Juneteenth is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865 announcement by Union Army general Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas.

Official recognition of Juneteenth gives local communities the opportunity to celebrate African-American heritage and culture in ways that bring families together across racial and ethnic lines. The City of Plano can be proud to adopt official recognition of Juneteenth as a city holiday in this new year of 2021. In so doing, together we can begin a new community tradition that reaffirms our commitment to freedom and justice for all through the stories and traditions of our black neighbors and friends.

Thank you for your consideration of recognizing Juneteenth as an official holiday in the City of Plano. I am honored to support your efforts in this regard and look forward to celebrating with you on June 19.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Allen Welter".

David Allen Welter  
State Representative, 75<sup>th</sup> District