



Legislation Text

File #: 65881, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No appropriation is required.

Title

Recognizing the inaugural Civic Season from June 19th to July 4th, 2021.

Body

WHEREAS, the 4th of July celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence which outlined the values of this nation: freedom, equality, justice, rights, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed that they were free and that the Civil War had ended; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds us that the freedom promised in the Declaration of Independence only benefitted a small group of Americans; and

WHEREAS, many transformative pieces of Civil Rights legislation were passed between June 19th and July 4th, including ratification of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution on July 1, 1971, which extended the right to vote to Americans aged 18 years and older, and passage of the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the fight for freedom, justice, equal rights, and equal opportunity for all Americans continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, including more diverse perspectives from the past and creating inclusive spaces for civic participation both now and in the future will create a strong, healthy, and sustainable democratic republic for all Americans,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Madison will celebrate the inaugural Civic Season from June 19th to July 4th to widen the lens of understanding our collective past, and to inspire civic participation both now and in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civic Season from June 19th to July 4th of 2021 is just a beginning. It is up to all of us to continuously do the work of sustaining and strengthening our democracy, not just for one season, not just for one election cycle, but for a lifetime.