

Juneteenth Illinois Executive Director Statement

I Barbara Deer am in full support of item # 24-2677 resolution declaring the month of June as Juneteenth month in Cook County.

Juneteenth Illinois is an organization that celebrates freedom and the emancipation of African Americans from slavery. Juneteenth also known as June 19, 1865 was the day that the slaves in Galveston Texas were informed that they were now free. The Emancipation Proclamation had gone into effect 2 ½ years earlier, however once all in Texas was informed they were able to actually celebrate their freedom. Juneteenth celebrations became the way to rejoice in new found hope, freedom, to celebrate contributions of African Americans, and to inspire future generations.

Juneteenth Illinois is grateful that the Juneteenth Holiday is recognized in 47 states, and was declared a holiday in Cook County in December 17, 2020 after being sponsored by Commissioner Dennis Deer and Commissioner Stanley Moore and being passed unanimously. Juneteenth Illinois honors our past leaders and also mentors, celebrates and honors youth that will be our future change makers and leaders. I urge you to vote for the passage of this resolution making the month of June Juneteenth month in Cook County.

Barbara Deer
Executive Director