

RESOLUTION 70
SAFIYAH CHAUVIN

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this honorable Board of Aldermen 2018 Juneteenth celebrations throughout the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration in America growing out of the experiences of African-Americans and is a celebration of the ending of chattel slavery in America after the Union forces won the Civil War and Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865 to Union General Ulysses S. Grant; and

WHEREAS, according to historians when the word hit Black communities held in bondage that the Union forces won the war and that they were now free spontaneous celebrations broke out; and

WHEREAS, Black communities throughout the United States found out about freedom various days in 1865 with some of the most notable celebrations taking place June 19, 1865 when the announcement of the ending of slavery reached Texas thus creating the name “Juneteenth African Freedom Day Celebration.” ; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in St. Louis founded one of this nation’s largest freedom/abolitionist organizations in the country which supplied over 47, 000 Black women and men to the Union effort to win their freedom; and

WHEREAS, though there were numerous “Freedom Day Celebrations” recorded throughout St. Louis during 1865 the largest and most organized of its day was the “Freemen’s Fair” held during the week of June 22, 1868 at the Philharmonic Hall at Fourth and Washington Streets in downtown St. Louis where it is reported that huge crowds attended to listen to music, visit informative exhibits, acknowledge Black achievers, buy paintings of famous abolitionist, attend lectures, hear speeches, dance and help raise money to build schools in various Black communities; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is also a time to recognize those in our community who have worked for the upliftment of the St. Louis and the African American community in particular; and

WHEREAS, in honor of African Freedom Days this board recognizes the many contributions of Ms. Safiyah Chauvin for her contribution to youth in our community as the organizer, teacher and director of the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers were she took the time out of her life to teach Black Youth their history, cultural heritage, pride and civic responsibility and through this work has helped to improve the quality of life in the City of St. Louis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations during Juneteenth to recognize and honor Safiyah Chauvin for being a St. Louis African-American contributor and by adoption of this resolution we wish to thank her for being an excellent example of community concern, care, talent, and commitment, and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 22nd day of June, 2018 by:

The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 2018 as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Legal Counsel, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen