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**CONTACT:**

Kim Schultz  
Wyn-Win Communications  
646-642-6957  
Kim@wyn-win.com

Thelma A. Walker  
Wyn-Win Communications  
847-404-9997  
Thelma@wyn-win.com

**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL JUNETEENTH ILLINOIS CELEBRATION: “RACIAL EQUITY”  
AT MALCOLM X COLLEGE ON JUNE 16 and 17.**

*Panels and Activities Address Education, Health, Wealth & Justice*

CHICAGO (June 6, 2022) – Cook County’s celebration of Juneteenth 2022, kicks off officially next week as a part of “Juneteenth Illinois,” an initiative commemorating June 19, announced Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer (2<sup>nd</sup> District), who is heading up the effort. Juneteenth Illinois is a collaboration between The Office of Cook County Commissioner Deer, Bill Lowry (3<sup>rd</sup> District) Stanley Moore (4<sup>th</sup> District) Rep. Lakesia Collins (9<sup>th</sup> District), Cook County Juneteenth Joint Planning Committee, State of Illinois and the City of Chicago and marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration of the day by the County since it became an official holiday in December of 2020.

Juneteenth comes with a dynamic slate of programming on June 16-17, 2022. There will be a mix of live, in-person panel discussion, arts and activities at Malcolm X College located at 1900 W. Jackson Blvd. in Chicago. All access to Juneteenth Illinois 2022 panels and activities is FREE to the public. Registration is encouraged.

“Juneteenth is a national movement as 49 states have embraced the significant role this date played in solidifying the freedom of all enslaved Africans in this country,” said Commissioner Deer. “Last year’s celebratory event was a major success and educated many Illinoisans about the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the enslaved, as declared by President Abraham Lincoln.” Commissioner Deer and

Commissioner Stanley Moore (4<sup>th</sup> District) led the efforts in Illinois and got legislation passed in 2020 to establish Juneteenth as a day of remembrance and an official paid holiday in Cook County. In 2021, the legislation was signed into law by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Juneteenth Committee Co-Chair Donald Dew said, "As we pause to celebrate that moment in time when we as African Americans learned of our freedom, let us present, examine and embrace comprehensive strategies that will ensure racial equity in all aspects of life to insure our mutual well-being."

"Racial Equity" is the theme for two days of activities including: panel discussions addressing issues important to the Black community, a film screening, a blood drive, multiple resource fairs, and a celebratory youth scholarship reception. Here is complete schedule:

**Thursday, June 16**

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - *Paper Tigers*: Movie Screening and Panel Discussion  
12 noon – 1:00 p.m. - Careers in Housing: A Discussion for Wealth Building  
<https://careersinhousing.eventbrite.com>  
12 noon – 6:30 p.m. - Housing Resource and Career Fair  
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Blood Drive Sponsored by the Rho Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and the American Red Cross  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Wealth and Housing Panel  
<https://juneteenth-il-wealth.eventbrite.com>  
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Education Panel  
<https://juneteenth-il-education.eventbrite.com>  
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - Scholarship and Awards Reception Celebration

**Friday, June 17**

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Health and Justice Resource Fair  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Health Panel and Breakfast  
<https://juneteenth-il-health.eventbrite.com>  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Justice and Equity Panel  
<https://juneteenth-il-justice.eventbrite.com>

Additionally, as a part of Juneteenth Illinois 2022, the [www.JuneteenthIllinois.com](http://www.JuneteenthIllinois.com) website provides resources and events information from across the state. It serves as a unified, one-stop portal for the public to learn about how Illinoisans are celebrating Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day. "It is a clearing house for all things Juneteenth in Illinois," said Deer. "The site showcases myriad commemorations of Juneteenth throughout the state under a single hub."

Ongoing updates are added to the website regularly and organizations and businesses are encouraged to submit their information to be included in the resources and/or events page.

To add an event, simply complete the website's online form.

Additional Juneteenth Illinois sponsors include: Pepsico, Aetna, NBC, National Association of Black Journalists, Chicago Federation of Labor 360, Superior Ambulance, Sterling Bay, Illinois State University, Habilitative Systems, Inc., Ada S. McKinley, Wyn-Win Communications, New Covenant, Real Freedom, Black Remembrance Project, Oak Park Regional Housing Center.

For more information about Juneteenth Illinois, visit [www.Juneteenthillinois.com](http://www.Juneteenthillinois.com).

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**About Juneteenth:**

Enslaved people were emancipated in 1865, but it took two years before word of their freedom reached slaves in the state of Texas. The news was met with resistance and murder, but the newly freed people remained vigilant and African Americans have celebrated the end of slavery and the hope of freedom for 156 years. Illinois recently became the 47th state to make Juneteenth a paid state holiday; followed by Cook County. Currently, 49 states and the District of Columbia celebrate the holiday. In Texas, New York, Virginia, Washington, and Illinois, Juneteenth is an official paid holiday for state employees.