



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

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TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT

June 22, 2024

Dear Friends and Community Members,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 4th annual celebration of Juneteenth Illinois. This day-long event, held on Saturday, June 22 at Malcolm X College, is part of our broader initiative to commemorate the official Juneteenth holiday on June 19.

Juneteenth holds a significant place in American history as it marks the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Since December 2020, when Cook County officially recognized Juneteenth as a holiday, we have committed ourselves to celebrating this day with the reverence and community spirit it deserves.

This year's celebration is particularly special as it is spearheaded by Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer of the 2nd District, alongside Barbara Deer, the Executive Director of Juneteenth Illinois. Their dedication and hard work, in collaboration with Commissioner Bill Lowry of the 3rd District and the Cook County Juneteenth Joint Planning Committee, have ensured a day filled with enriching and engaging activities for all.

The day will feature a series of panels and discussions, fostering a deeper understanding of Juneteenth's historical significance and its contemporary relevance. We are proud to host this event at Malcolm X College, a venue that symbolizes the enduring quest for knowledge, empowerment, and community upliftment.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the organizers, participants, and attendees who make this event possible. Your involvement and support help to honor the legacy of Juneteenth and reinforce our collective commitment to justice, equality, and freedom.

As we gather to commemorate this important milestone, let us reflect on our shared history, celebrate our progress, and continue to strive for a future where liberty and justice are truly for all.

Welcome, and enjoy the celebration!

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners