



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

June 21, 2024

Dear Friends:

This historic day, celebrating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States, holds immense significance, especially in our current times as we continue to advocate for equality and justice.

Juneteenth is a day to reflect on our history, celebrate the progress we have made, and recognize the ongoing efforts needed to achieve true equality. It is in this spirit that we are pleased to highlight the outstanding contributions of Cook County Commissioners Deer, Lowry, and Moore. Their leadership in officially recognizing Juneteenth within the County has been instrumental. Furthermore, their selection of Barbara Deer as Executive Director has proven to be a pivotal decision. Barbara Deer's exceptional service and dedication have greatly advanced the cause, making significant strides in our collective pursuit of justice and equality.

In our own community, we have been actively engaged in promoting awareness and action, particularly through our most recent efforts on the Black reparation's agenda. These initiatives are crucial as we continue to stand together in solidarity, advocating for meaningful change and addressing the deep-seated injustices faced by African Americans.

The Juneteenth Illinois Scholarship is a testament to our commitment to education, empowerment, and the recognition of our shared history. It provides an opportunity to support young individuals who are poised to become future leaders, carrying forward the legacy of resilience and progress.

As we commemorate Juneteenth, let us honor the legacy of those who fought for freedom and continue to strive for a more just and equitable society. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Johnson".

Mayor