



**STORY COUNTY BOARD
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05/24/2022

To: Story County Board of Supervisors
From: Latifah Faisal
RE: Story County's participation in and sponsorship of the City of Ames' Juneteenth Celebration on June 18, 2022

The City of Ames is currently planning a Juneteenth celebration on June 18, 2022. The event will be held at the Band Shell Park, 125 East 5th Street, Ames, from 3:00pm-6:00pm. The current partners involved in planning are the Ames Human Relations Committee, Ames Police Department, Ames Public Library, Iowa State Black Faculty and Staff, Black Liberation Movement and the NAACP. There will be live entertainment, face painting, balloon animals, food trucks, hula hoop contests, makers and other artists, vendors and more. The evening will end with a movie in the park.

What is Juneteenth? The Nation Museum of African American History and Culture's explanation is that "On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas. He informed the enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. This momentous occasion has been celebrated as Juneteenth — a combination of June and 19 — for over 150 years." (<https://nmaahc.si.edu/juneteenth>)

The State of Iowa recognizes Juneteenth, and in *Chapter 1C of the Iowa Code 2022*, states: "...and to encourage all governmental entities, civic organizations, schools, and institutions of higher education in the state to observe the day in a manner that emphasizes the meaning and importance or the emancipation proclamation that ended slavery in the United States and to recognize and celebrate the importance of this day to every person who cherishes liberty and equality for all people." (excerpted from Section 1C.14 Juneteenth National Freedom Day, from the *Iowa Code 2022* - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/1c.pdf>)

Furthermore, the Juneteenth National Independence Day is considered a Federal holiday with legislation establishing it passed by Congress on June 16, 2021, and signed into law by President Biden.

Public Purpose Statement – Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a day to celebrate freedom, educate each other on the value of good community relationships, and connect with those who are different from us. This goes beyond symbolism;

it provides an opportunity to make a difference. As our nation's demographics continue to change, Story County can seize this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of its residents by demonstrating that each resident is valued. In doing so, we help make Story County a better place to live, work, and play. In short, this is the purpose for expending public funds—to invest in Story County and its residents.

The importance of the County's participation cannot be overstated. I would like to propose that Story County support the event with a sponsorship of \$1,000.00. I would also like to suggest that the County have an information table during the celebration to tell people about county services and our parks, trails and conservation summer camps. It is also a great event at which to promote our open employment positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Latifah Faisal