



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 12-2025

### A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND, TO ALTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CITY OF LAUREL JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION PLANNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.*

**WHEREAS**, on June 28, 2021, the Mayor and City Council adopted Ordinance No.1979 making Juneteenth Freedom Day an official City of Laurel Holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel recognize the importance of remembering and celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City, with a community-wide celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, within Ordinance No. 1979 the City Council requested that the Mayor appoint a Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee to plan for a 2022, community-wide celebration to be held on or about June 19, 2022, to honor and celebrate African American freedom in the City of Laurel; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 25, 2021 the Mayor and City Council adopted Resolution No. 8-2021 establishing the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee has held an annual celebration each year since 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee voting membership requirement of twelve (12) has made it challenging to obtain a quorum in order to conduct official business of the Executive Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee has requested that the Mayor and City Council reduce the required number of voting members from twelve (12) to seven (7), thus allowing for a meeting quorum to be established with a minimum of four (4) voting members present; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, desire to provide for the efficient conduct of business for the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee voting membership requirement is hereby altered by this Resolution.

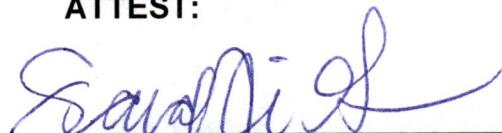
**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee description sheet which is contained in Attachment "A"- *Revised and attached* hereto, providing for the purpose, program description, staff assignment(s), appointment process for the Chair, Vice Chair and Members, meeting location, time and frequency is hereby adopted as part of this Resolution.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members shall serve without compensation, and all meetings shall be held in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect from the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC  
City Clerk

  
FRANCIS D. SMITH  
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

  
KEITH R. SYDNR  
Mayor

**Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Committee**

**PURPOSE:** To establish a Citywide celebratory Juneteenth program to commemorate that on June 19, 1865 – more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas realized their freedom. The City's Juneteenth Planning Committee will invite others to join in a day of recognition, reflection, and celebration of the freedom and resilience that this day represents. Juneteenth is a City of Laurel Official Holiday.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE is the official planning committee for the City of Laurel, to develop a community-wide annual Juneteenth Celebration. The Planning Committee will expand its efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion, with the goal to provide of providing meaningful interactions that improve community relations, encourage collaboration, and bring forth a sense of pride. This observance of the emancipation of slaves in the United States will be focused on education, the arts, supporting local businesses, and unification. The Planning Committee may work with other non-profit organizations and local educational institutions. The celebration will promote, as well as provide a wealth of educational and health resources that will infuse the arts to enhance each attendee's understanding of African American Culture. The City's goal is to have a fun filled day, full of safe activities, community awards, contests, and games for all to enjoy.

**PROGRAM SPEAKER:** At least one speaker shall highlight the event and speak about the meaning of the celebration.

**STAFF:** Mayor and City Council Offices', the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Communications will have staff assigned, as needed.

**MONTH OF YEAR:** June

**DAY OF MONTH:** On or around June 19<sup>th</sup>

**LOCATION:** City of Laurel - Community-wide

**TIME:** To be determined (TBD) by committee

**EQUIPMENT**

**NEEDED:** TBD

**APPOINTMENTS:** Appointments to the Executive Committee shall be made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

**EXECUTIVE**

**COMMITTEE:**

The Executive Committee shall be made up of ~~twelve~~ seven (127) members of the community. The Executive Committee shall set the budget, appoint sub-committees as may be needed, document minutes of the meetings, set time and location of planning meetings. ~~Two~~ One members of the City Council may serve as ex-officio members. ~~No City funds may be expended, or contracts signed by the Executive Committee without the approval of the City Administrator or designee.~~

**BUDGET:**

The Mayor shall determine and allocate the annual funding amount for the Committee. The Executive Committee shall then prepare a budget based on the funds allocated by the Mayor, detailing how these funds will be spent. No City funds may be expended, or contracts signed by the Executive Committee, without approval of the City Administrator or designee.

**CHAIR AND**

**VICE CHAIR:**

The Mayor shall appoint the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Vice Chair, Secretary and other positions of leadership shall be elected by the Executive Committee members. The City Council ~~positions~~ position may not serve as Chair or Vice Chair but may be appointed to Chair of a sub-committees.

**PLANNING**

**COMMITTEE:**

The Planning Committee shall be made up of the Executive Committee members, as well as others who wish to volunteer their time to plan the Juneteenth Celebrations. The Planning Committee will also have the responsibility to make sure the event has volunteers, if needed to help set up, run, and clean up for the celebration.

**MEETINGS:**

Meetings shall be called by the Chair. Meetings shall be held at least bi-monthly. Meetings shall be open to the Public and held in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. Meetings may be held in person or virtually.