

ELGIN JUNETEENTH ORGANIZATION

To: City Manager - City of Elgin
From: Bettye Lofton, President - Elgin Juneteenth Organization
Re: Juneteenth Celebration (June 6 - 8), 2019
Date: March 8, 2019
Cc: Chief Patrick South

The Elgin Juneteenth Organization has scheduled their 20th year celebration starting with a Pageant on Thursday night , June 6th, 7:00 pm at the Elgin Middle School. This year the Pageant will "showcase young ladies from Elgin and surrounding areas" with the Royal Court ranging from ages 8 to 18 years of age. The pageant has been out of existence for a while but this year we are bringing it back. The first year was a great success and this year is destined to be very enjoyable as well. The annual street dance will be held on Friday, June 7th from 8:00 pm to 12:00 midnight and the grand parade will be held on Saturday June 8th in downtown Elgin beginning at 10:00 am with line-up starting from Booker T. Washington Elementary school on M.L.K. Blvd. The Organization is requesting street closures and assistance in accordance with the parade route.

The Parade route will start from Booker T. Washington Elementary school on M.L.K Blvd, turning left on Alamo and continuing down Alamo to Main Street. At Main Street making a right and travel up North Main to traffic signal at West 2nd , making a left at West 2nd and Main and traveling to stop sign at West 2nd and North Ave. C. The parade will make a left onto North Ave. C. and travel across the tracks to Alamo where the Parade will disperse.

The Veterans Memorial Park has been secured for all day activities following the Grand Parade. No alcoholic beverages will be sold, but the Organization requests that the open container permit be waived during the event from 6:00 pm until 12 mid-night on Friday, June 7th and from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Saturday June 8th. No glass containers will be allowed in the area due to the danger of such usage.

The Juneteenth Organization is also requesting that all fees be reduced or waived for this event because we are a very small Cultural Organization trying to keep our Heritage alive in Elgin. We are financially strapped and depend solely on donations. These funds help us to give three (3) \$500.00 scholarships to seniors who are earmarked to further their education. Please consider our request.

A complete schedule of activities will be available at the council meeting. Please place this on the City Council agenda for April 2nd.

I, Bettye Lofton, President of the Organization or a designee will attend the Council meeting to answer any questions or concerns. Thanks in advance for your consideration.