



Office of Councilmember  
Maxwell Anderson, District 3

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

April 21, 2009

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Anderson, Moore, Worthington and Arreguin

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of the 22nd Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve co-sponsorship of the 22nd Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009.

**BACKGROUND**

This popular Berkeley event attracts thousands of attendees each year and is a showcase for community organizations, schools, advocacy groups, artisans and merchants. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally recognized commemoration of the abolishment of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19<sup>th</sup> as the African American Emancipation day has spread across the United States. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863, however news of its signing did not reach slaves in Texas until June 19, 1865. June 19<sup>th</sup> was shortened to "Juneteenth", a day of freedom, hope and change. Today, communities across the country have adopted this freedom celebration as an opportunity to express and experience all contributions that African Americans have made to the American way of life.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As part of the FY 2009 Adopted Budget, the City allocated a \$4,050 cash grant for this event, as also provides in-kind support for the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Councilmember Max Anderson, (510) 981-7130