

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Human Relations Commission Juneteenth Event Coordinator Recommendation

**DATE:** May 12, 2023

**BUDGET INFORMATION:**

REVENUES:

EXPENSES:

ANNUAL: \$20,000

CAPITAL:

OTHER:

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON:** May 16, 2023 Under Suspension of Rules

---

**PURPOSE:**

To request Mayor and Commission approve the Human Relations Commission's (HRC) recommendation naming "Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens" the Juneteenth Event Coordinator and award \$12,750 for the same purposes.

---

**HISTORY:**

1. On July 7, 2020, the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia (M&C), adopted a resolution in recognition that Black Lives Matter and committed to explore ways to work with community leaders to establish Juneteenth as a local annual holiday and celebration.
2. On June 18, 2021, President Joseph Biden, Jr., proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth Day of Observance and called upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black/African Americans and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.
3. On June 19, 2021, ACCGov staff worked with community members to produce the first Juneteenth series of events which included hosting an exhibition at the Lyndon House Arts Center, a volunteer workday at Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, and partnering with Springfield Baptist Church for a community celebration.

4. On August 3, 2021, the Athens-Clarke County Commission passed a historic non-discrimination ordinance to protect the rights and uplift the dignity of all Athenians.
5. On November 2, 2021, M&C unanimously voted to adopt the Human Relations Commission Ordinance.
6. On June 7, 2022, the M&C adopted a resolution to recognize and observe Juneteenth as a local annual holiday and community celebration.
7. On June 7, 2022, the M&C declared that the month of June shall hereafter be known as Athens Pride Month.
8. On June 7, 2022 the M&C adopted the FY23 General and Operating Budgets which included \$20,000 in the Leisure Services department budget to help facilitate a Juneteenth celebration.
9. In June 2022, Leisure Services and the Inclusion Office worked with community partners to facilitate a “19 days of Juneteenth,” to commemorate the history of Juneteenth across Athens.
10. On April 4, 2023 the HRC held a Special Called Meeting and unanimously approved plans for the celebration of Juneteenth which included an educational Juneteenth Program at the Morton Theatre; and tabling presence focused on Juneteenth with the Hot Corner Festival, allocating \$5,000 of the total \$20,000 FY23 budget.
11. On April 11, 2023, at a regularly scheduled M&C work session, recommendations regarding Juneteenth and PRIDE month flag flying, Juneteenth 2023 event, and the HRC work session. Feedback was given from the Commission regarding a reconsideration of how to facilitate a Juneteenth event.
12. On April 19, 2023 a Special Called meeting of the HRC was held to hear from community members and members of the Juneteenth Collective regarding what they would like to see in a Juneteenth community event. By a unanimous vote, the HRC recommended to staff to have a separate Juneteenth event on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, hosted by community members, and supported by Athens-Clarke County Government, in addition to what was previously voted. The HRC also unanimously voted to recommend staff draft a 10-day RFP for a Juneteenth Event Coordinator, based on what was discussed by from community members and members of the Juneteenth Collective.
13. On April 24, 2023, the Human Relations Commission approved the draft 10-day Juneteenth Event Coordinator RFP.

14. On April 28, 2022 the Juneteenth Event Coordinator RFP was made public and closed on May 8, 2023.
  
15. On May 8, 2023, three proposals were received by the published deadline.
  - a. Knowa and Mokah Jasmine Johnson- United Group of Artists Music Association (UGAMA) - **\$14,996**
  - b. Jacqueline Bosby - Joynt Production Network (JPN)- **\$15,000**
  - c. Broderick Flanigan/ Tim Johnson/ Terris Thomas - Family Connection- Communities in Schools of Athens - **\$13,750**
  
16. On May 11, 2023, the Human Relations Commission unanimously voted to recommend to Mayor & Commission, "Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens" as the Juneteenth Event Coordinator, and award their proposed event on June 17, 2023 in Rolling Ridge Apartment Complex in the amount of \$12,750; \$1,000 less than the requested amount, due to inability to fund the proposed firework show, due to liability concerns.

---

**FACTS & ISSUES:**

1. The HRC was established with the following charge, per Human Relations Ordinance:
  - Sec. 1-29-3. Purpose and Scope  
*The Human Relations Commission shall engage in extensive community education, outreach, dialogue, and recruitment that prioritizes diversity, inclusion, representation, belonging, and equity.*
  
  - Sec. 1-29-4 Function and Duties  
*In addition, The Human Relations Commission shall develop and implement ongoing community marketing and education strategies*
  
2. The Juneteenth resolution provides context regarding the importance and history of the event and its relationship to Athens-Clarke County.
  
3. The approach that has been followed in the past Juneteenth celebrations is to partner with community stakeholders to produce community celebrations.
  
4. To convey public funds to outside entities to produce programming or services, a procurement process is required.
  
5. At this time, the Human Relations Committee would appear to be the appropriate committee to solicit, understand, and identify community stakeholders for producing events and outreach in the community to promote awareness and mutual understanding around activities to promote Human Relations.

6. For a variety of reasons, this process did not take place until very recently. The plan for the HRC is to facilitate a similar process in the coming fall to identify and recommend funding for the Juneteenth 2024 celebration to enhance communication and planning.
  7. This recommendation supports the ACCGov Strategic Plan FY23-25 under the Goal Area Good Neighbors-
    - Work to create and implement systems to identify, acknowledge, and address racism, trauma, harm, and violence in our community:
    - Enact the policy recommendations of the Human Relations Commission.
- 

**OPTIONS:**

1. Mayor and Commission approve the Human Relations Commission's (HRC) recommendation naming "Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens" the Juneteenth Event Coordinator and award \$12,750 for the same purposes.
  2. Mayor and Commission deny the recommendation Human Relations Commission's (HRC) recommendation naming "Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Athens" the Juneteenth Event Coordinator;
  3. Mayor and Commission defined option.
- 

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Option #1

---

**DEPARTMENT:**

Prepared by: Remy Epps



Remy Epps

5/12/2023

Date:

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:** Option #1



\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager

May 12, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: