

RESOLUTION

VILLAGE OF OAK PARK JUNETEENTH LEGACY RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP OF LONGTIME OAK PARKERS JUANTA BENNETT GRIFFIN AND ANTHONY CLARK IN ORGANIZING THE COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

WHEREAS, since June 2016, Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark, as private citizens and community leaders who were raised in Oak Park, have generously labored to coordinate its Juneteenth celebrations; and

WHEREAS, Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark invited all – especially Black Oak Parkers – to celebrate Black resilience, freedom, joy, and continued struggle for full liberation in commemoration of General Gordon Granger's June 19, 1865 reading of General Order No. 3, announcing that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all enslaved persons are free; and

WHEREAS, Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark, each year, devoted their time, treasure, talent, passion, and activism to educating the community about the history and importance of Juneteenth – and to planning and leading a parade, cookout, and contests (including during and through the Covid-19 pandemic); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park's 2020 Juneteenth holiday declaration and subsequent Village-sponsored celebrations build proudly upon an Oak Park Juneteenth legacy shaped by the efforts of Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Village President Vicki Scaman and the Board of Trustees that we gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark in leading and establishing community customs and celebrations of Juneteenth, over the years, for the benefit of Oak Park and as a foundation for the future; and

AND BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be presented to Juanta Bennett Griffin and Anthony Clark as an expression of the Village of Oak Park's acknowledgement and gratitude.

APPROVED this 20th day of June, 2023

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk