



Town of Capitol Heights

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March 23, 2022

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chairman
Education, Housing and Environmental
Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, MD. 21041

RE: House Bill 227 – IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

The Town of Capitol Heights celebrates Juneteenth Day every year. It is an important date in the Town's yearly observances because it commemorates a day when the abolition of slavery in the United States became a reality for all Americans.

Although President Abraham Lincoln signed the Proclamation on January 1, 1863, freedom did not become a reality for many enslaved people for years after that date. Juneteenth commemorates the day when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and officially informed residents there that ALL enslaved people were free.

Juneteenth Day is now the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. For many, Juneteenth marks the second Independence Day that should be recognized as a milestone in this country's history.

The Town of Capitol Heights supports House Bill 227 that would recognize the importance of Juneteenth Day in the State of Maryland. Thank you for holding a hearing on this legislation.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE BROWN

Caroline Brown
Councilmember
Town Representative to PGCMA

Cc: Town Council

Vivian M. Dodson Municipal Center
One Capitol Heights Boulevard, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743
(301) 336-0626 Office ~ (301) 336-8706 Facsimile
www.capitolheightsmd.com