Juneteenth Holiday (Commissioner Michael Joseph)

Commissioner Joseph introduced this item to the Mayor and Commissioners. Commissioner Joseph provided background information about the historical and social importance of the holiday when all remaining slaves were freed on June 19, 1865.

Motion to **approve** a Juneteenth Holiday made by Commissioner Joseph, seconded by Mayor DeFillipo.

Commissioner Kramer stated that there is not as much awareness about this holiday, but that it is an appropriate time in the country's history to add this significant holiday deserving of celebration, she asked about the added cost for the paid holiday, and if there is another holiday, such as Columbus Day, that could be used to swap for the Juneteenth Holiday, since she has not seen any major celebrations on Columbus Day in the area which is just considered a day off, and she asked for a future discussion on the matter. Interim City Manager McHugh responded that the estimated cost is $140,000 to $150,000 yearly in addition to any needed overtime. Commissioner Joseph stated that he understands the significance of Columbus Day to many cultures, and does not want to remove any current holidays. Commissioner Smukler stated that she also considered the option of swapping out Columbus Day, as the county, schools, and banks do not recognize that day, she shared that April **8,** 2021 was Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, she announced that city employees currently receive a total of 14 paid holidays, and she also asked for a future discussion on swapping the holiday for an existing one. Vice Mayor Villard stated that she supports the item and what it represents, and that she doesn't want to remove any existing employee holidays. Commissioner Fleurimond supports the item and asked if it needs to be presented during union negotiations prior to enactment, and encouraged the city to push harder to complete negotiations so that the employees can experience the new holiday. Mayor DeFillipo is proud to support the item and stated that he would not want to swap it with an existing holiday.