

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

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**From:** Geno Dozier <genodozier@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:37 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth Celebration 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mayor Montgomery and esteemed members of our City Council,

One of the greatest aspects of being a Manhattan Beach resident, is our collective respect and candor with one another, sharing in the many activities and cultural events of our collective community.

We're a city of people who open doors for one another, smile and say hello when we see our neighbors about town, and support one another's causes when asked. That's who we are.

Sure, the cultural makeup of this city doesn't say that putting on a Juneteenth celebration represents the majority here, but that's really the point. That's exactly the point if you asked me. It's saying that we, as a city, are happy that we've moved past a time when all weren't welcome and that our Black or African American residents are important to us and we value their culture, and want to celebrate the moment of freedom that Juneteenth represents.

Juneteenth is now a national holiday. Let's celebrate it as the day of freedom it represents!

Best regards,

Geno Dozier  
Manhattan Beach resident since 2006

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Mary Yollin <mary.yollin@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:28 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support Juneteenth

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I think it is very important for our city to acknowledge and observe the Juneteenth holiday.

Thank you!

Mary Yollin

Sent from my iPhone

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Joy Friend <joydfriend@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:58 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Manhattan Beach City Council,

While I support a Juneteenth celebration, I am concerned with the expensive 30K proposed price tag.

I was surprised to learn that 76% of the survey respondents came from Mira Costa students. I have concerns that surveys such as this one distract from precious educational hours as well as district administrative resources. Can you tell me who initiated this survey with the district? Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joy

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** jennifer cochran <jennifercochranmb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth Agenda Item

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

I appreciated your balanced discussion when considering a Juneteenth event for 2023. Thank you for asking the staff and Parks and Rec Commission to thoughtfully consider the best approach to a proper celebration for 2024. I hope you will approve the proposed celebration and funding to allow the city to move forward with planning the event.

It is absolutely true that not every resident will be interested in attending a Juneteenth celebration. Not every resident was interested in attending Earth Day celebrations, yet they were successful, educational events that were very appreciated.

Again, thank you for taking your time with this issue, and I trust you will honor the promise to do this "properly" and allow the staff and community members who are passionate about the event to make it a meaningful celebration for our community.

Best,  
Jennifer Cochran

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Laura Kiely <laurakiely@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk; List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth Community Celebration - yes 😊

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

Please vote to support a Community celebration of Juneteenth. Parks and Rec has made good recommendations. Most residents are in favor. I attended one of the public meetings asking for residents' input. I was delighted to hear overwhelming support from the adults at that meeting.

Juneteenth is an important National Holiday affirming and celebrating the value of all humans and their right to liberty and freedom. Our country ended the horrendous atrocity of slavery long ago, but it's taken far too long for the end of slavery to be recognized as a National holiday and day of celebration. It's now time for Manhattan Beach to officially recognize and support Juneteenth!

I'm disheartened, actually sickened, to hear some residents object to our City hosting a Juneteenth celebration.

I'm assuming you'll approve this agenda item, but lately nothing would surprise me ... sadly. I'm observing too many examples of bigotry, ignorance and fear. It's all just too much. But I'm still hopeful that you will ALL vote to support a community celebration. Our children are watching. What will they learn from you?

Best regards,  
Laura Kiely  
Manhattan Beach resident

Sent from my iPhone

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

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**From:** Melanie Behrens <mdesigns12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: juneteenth holiday

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

*Melanie Behrens*

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Melanie Behrens** <[mdesigns12@gmail.com](mailto:mdesigns12@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 10:53 PM  
**Subject:** juneteenth holiday  
**To:** <[citycouncil@manhattanbeach.gov](mailto:citycouncil@manhattanbeach.gov)>

To the City Council:

I am completely opposed to having a Juneteenth celebration in Manhattan Beach.

I do not approve of city funds to sponsor any Juneteenth events and support the ban on public events at Bruce's Beach park.

*Melanie Behrens*

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Melanie Behrens <mdesigns12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:53 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] juneteenth holiday

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the City Council:

I am completely opposed to having a Juneteenth celebration in Manhattan Beach.

I do not approve of city funds to sponsor any Juneteenth events and support the ban on public events at Bruce's Beach park.

*Melanie Behrens*

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Darlene Goss <darlene.goss42@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:55 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bruce's Beach

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am AGAINST the city funding \$30,000 or any amount for any celebration to be held at Bruce's Beach.

Darlene Goss



## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Heidi Rayden <heidirayden@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:35 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda #14...

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

Regarding Agenda item #14 .

I am not against a Juneteenth event as it is a celebration of freedom and celebrating freedom is a good thing for all ...however I am aghast at the massive price tag & approach the city took to “justify” the cost.

This has Hildy Stern & CM Howarth along with their MB United anti-pd , anti- public safety radicals ...all over it. CC Howarth’s group of MB United radicals do not represent the majority of residents in MB .

Just as it was wildly inappropriate for Hildy & Howarth to push through the city footing the bill for hundreds of useless MB United branded “anti-hate signs “ costing the city \$7k .....signs no one wants on their lawn aside from a small minority of morons....based on the initial city survey ..... the majority of residents have little interest in attending this event let alone funding it.

Considering we as a city did virtually nothing for July 4th, Memorial Day (MB embarrassingly couldn’t even manage to put up American flags on our main streets ) and of course we can’t manage to do anything for national law enforcement day & Veterans Day celebration was tiny (although heartfelt ) ....the contrast is inappropriate & doesn’t make sense.

I respectfully ask Mayor Montgomery , Mayor Pro-Tem Franklin and council members Napolitano and Lesser to please consider the above points when voting on this agenda item.

Thank you for your time,  
Heidi

Particularly offensive this past holiday season

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

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**From:** Anthony A. Lee <member1700@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 5:56 PM  
**To:** List - City Council; City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Uneteenth Celebration, 2024

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in support of the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission for an inter-city celebration of Juneteenth next year. The CCommission and its staff have done a magnificent job of planning for next years event and should be congratulated.

Juneteenth is a new national holiday that should have meaning and significance to all Americans. It is especially important to African Americans, of course. Since it a new holiday, Manhattan Beach has an opportunity to lead the way for future observances. Strong leadership will create a more open, diverse, and inclusive city.

Warm regards,  
Anthony A. Lee

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** nedmomary@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] juneteenth celebration

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

to all city council members when i heard of the planned juneteenth celebration it makes my blood boil. 30,000 dollars for a celebration planned at bruce's beach is outrageous. first off i thought that all special events using bruce's beach was prohibited due to the problems of trash, noise, parking, and traffic control. second who voted for the celebration----were they all taxpayers of our city. third this is another example of misplaced allocation of funds----for instance the cpr course given by the city was canceled due to lack of funding. also you have enough funds to paint gay pride symbols at numerous intersections throughout the city. who are you people that are supposed to represent us. if you are so hellbent to do the celebration then why don't you pay for it out of your own pocket. i wish our elections were this month to vote you people out of office. sincerely a very upset tax paying citizen of manhattan beach.

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Robin Cleland <robincleland@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting 12/5/23 Agenda Item 14 (ANNUAL EVENT? Annual CITY EXPENSE \$30.000?) General Fund?

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding Agenda item 14. 12/05/23 meeting. \$30.000 annual city event TAX expense for Juneteenth celebration? Which was based on a possibly fraudulent survey. This could be a misallocation of taxpayer funds.

How meaningful is a tax payers survey regarding a proposed annual \$30.000 Juneteenth expense if over 76% of the respondents are teenagers who don't PAY TAXES! Those votes are illegitimate. Not valid. City Council and the City Clerk should not authorize this fraudulent survey and tax. You have a duty to the citizens who pay taxes that the survey is legitimate and verified.

Of the 289 respondents who participated prior to Mira Costa's massive involvement in the survey, support for a Juneteenth community celebration was less than 50%.

Are teenagers also being allowed to voting on the Storm Drain Measure? Of course not!

How can Council vote on this agenda item when the public has been deceived with a possible fraudulent survey? You have a duty to the taxpayers that this survey is legitimate and accurate. Stop this possible misallocation of taxpayer funds.

What bothers me the most is why \$30.000 annually for only this holiday?  
What have we spent on Veterans Day or Memorial Day? Inclusive holidays that honor all!

Thank you.  
Robin Cleland

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Michelle and Neil Erickson <mandnerickson@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 1:39 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item #14 - Proposed Juneteenth Celebration

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Councilmembers,

Thank you for sending the community survey on planning for a city Juneteenth celebration. I completed the survey and was interested to see the results.

I was disappointed to see that 76% of the people who responded to the survey are under the age of 17. To me this indicates the majority of those surveyed are not voting or tax paying citizens of our city and yet it appears their opinions are driving plans for this celebration.

The other statistic that stands out to me is 83% of respondents don't celebrate Juneteenth. So why is it imperative to organize an elaborate celebration in Manhattan Beach?

While I am not opposed to the city planning recognition of Juneteenth, the statics do not support public approval by taxpayers to spend up to \$30,000 on such an event.

I hope you will consider reducing the amount of money budgeted for a Juneteenth celebration.

Michelle Erickson  
2904 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Andrew Weir <andy@stroykeproperties.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 14

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear council...

ITEM 14 on tomorrow's meeting agenda:

Please provide clarification regarding the respondents to the "resident" survey on the proposed Juneteenth event. Is it true that over 76% of the respondents (1,318 out of 1,726) are teenagers who don't vote and don't pay taxes? Does this mean that children 13-17 years of age are going to play a determining role in how \$30,000 of our tax dollars are to be spent? What was the result of the survey if you pull out non-taxpayer minors? And as a resident, I do not recall receiving any opportunity to participate in this survey. We have a city with over 30,000 residents and there were only 408 tax-paying adults who responded? Maybe a new survey, with more detail, notice and promotion to participate, is necessary?

Also, why is the city proposing to spend a generic \$30,000 amount of general fund money on this specific holiday? (I say generic because I do not believe there an itemized breakdown of these proposed expenses?). And is it correct that this would be an annual expense? Does the city have a line item in our budget for any other holiday celebrations other than the Holiday fireworks? If not, why just this one? Not that it is not important to recognize Juneteenth, but why moreso than any other important holiday?

Lastly, I hope this event is not precedent-setting in terms of using Bruce's Beach Park as a place for public events. There is a reason why that the city has not allow such gatherings of large amounts of people there in the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Andrew

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Joe Ferrell <joeferrell47@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] June Nineteenth \$\$

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Why in the world would you have taxpayers pay for an event that has virtually nothing to do with our community?  
Spend that \$30,000 on something that will directly benefit MB.

Sent from my iPhone

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Jack Cummings <jackjcumplings@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I am strongly opposed to council spending money for Juneteenth

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

This is a waste of our funds when we have potholes all over the city that can't be fixed.

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**Jack Cummings | Realtor**

CalBRE#01173922

**Strand Hill | Member of Forbes Global Properties**

C [+1 310.383.6492](tel:+13103836492) | O [+1 310.683.0202](tel:+13106830202)

[jackjcumplings@gmail.com](mailto:jackjcumplings@gmail.com) | [www.strandhill.com](http://www.strandhill.com)





## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Kathlene Miglin <kpmiglin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:15 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No on spending \$30,000 on June 19 celebration

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

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**From:** Joanne Ciancarelli <joanneciancarelli@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:49 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth 2024

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

NO FESTIVITIES AT BRUCE'S BEACH!!!!!!

And people who vote are the only ones to have a say in spending \$\$\$\$\$\$

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** James Harger <jamesnharger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:29 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** Lauren Harger  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed June 19th Event, Bruce's Beach

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE do not spend a single taxpayer dollar on this WORTHLESS EVENT! The Bruce family has been paid twice: \$14,500 in 1927 and nearly \$20 million by LAC last year. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! We don't memorialize a June 19th event now or in the future with our taxpayer money.

If some of you want to come out of pocket, or you have other WOK sponsors, you/they can foot the bill. And quit using teenager votes, who are not taxpayers, to justify the votes to hold this WORTHLESS event.

If the teenagers and Council are so inclined to go forward, make the effort and raise the money. Maybe a bake sale or a personal check will help the cause. And I bet those of you who are behind the event would NEVER write a substantial check to underwrite it with your personal funds. I call people like you CHEAP LIBERALS!

And Steve, please don't reply "thank you for your comment" because I know you don't. You're a HUGE disappointment.

Jim Harger  
Manhattan Beach Native since 1958

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Kirsten Chen <kirsten.t.chen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:47 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Item 14 on 12/5/23 City Council Agenda

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear MB City Council,

I oppose the Juneteenth celebration and budget allocation under consideration at this meeting.

While I recognize the importance of celebrating Juneteenth as a national holiday, this community hosting such a celebration is not appropriate. In addition to the \$30k under consideration, I presume there are other costs by taxpayers for such an event, such as police, city personnel, and other indirect costs of hosting this event. As a local homeowner and parent of two MBUSD students, I am frustrated by the increasing costs placed on residents. I just received a bill for my annual Security Alarm permit which increased to \$30 a year. While its a mere \$5 increase, I can't imagine what inflationary justification exists for permitting homeowners to operate a security alarm. I am also supporting the renewal of the local parcel tax, but deeply aware of it being a meaningful cost to our residents. In other words, money doesn't grow on trees, and I don't believe its fiscally responsible to invest taxpayer funds in an event which is not reflective of the demographics of the local taxpayers. As a rhetorical question I ask; How about we spent that money on Lunar New Year festival or Diwali? We probably have a larger concentration of residents observing those holidays.

Respectfully,  
Kirsten Chen

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Ellie Heffernan <esh7@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:28 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk; citymanager@citymb.info  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Events at Bruce's Beach

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the MB Council,

I am most disappointed in your agenda for Dec. 5th meeting!!! Why are we going through this Bruce Beach events THING AGAIN????

You don't want to honor our response to your survey earlier this year it's clear, SHAME ON YOU!

By the way, ONLY tax paying citizens (where you get the money to spree) should be voting on what concerns the life of residents in OUR CITY.

We don't want "events" (poop on streets, uncontrollable gangs, cussing, etc) at and in what we now call Bruce's Beach Park. The neighbors pay highly for their property and peace, they're against this insane idea of yours.

Race and color should not be a bias for special events anywhere. Here in Manhattan Beach our community has many different races, are we going to give special individual treatment to them too? At what cost?

Expenditures should be approved by voters who foot the bill

No to special/city events of any kind at this park, bruce's beach.

Thanks for reading my two cents.

Ellie Heffernan

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** bedi singh <bedisingh@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Junteenth

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council

Instead of wasting \$30000 of taxpayer dollars on funding these sort of divisive events why dont you use the money for sewer repairs ?

Instead you are busy raising taxes on people for that ! This used to be a fiscally responsible and conservatively run city. It now seems to be run by left wing splinter agenda groups who only know how to tax and spend. How about cutting costs and saving money to pay for essential stuff.

Please stop wasting money on woke cultural non sense.

Sincerely

Bedi Singh

Sent from my iPhone

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** john whitaker <bonefish27@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:09 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 30,000\$

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not spend our taxpayer money on this event. Times are difficult these days for everyone, and this is a big waste of money. If you have an extra \$30,000 to spend please spend it on a worthwhile cause.

John Whitaker

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Patricia Lane <patricialane213@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:16 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No on Juneteenth

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members-

I am sending this e-mail because I am opposed to spending \$30k on 2024 Juneteenth festivities. That's a N-O! There are plenty of other places to put our tax payer monies to good use.

Patricia Lane  
MB Resident since 1985

Sent from my iPhone



## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Judi Alves <judi.alves@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:03 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council members,

In March of 2022, the City Council, in a 4-1 vote (Hildy Stern being the lone 'no' vote), reaffirmed its policy not to allow any special event permits for Bruce's Beach Park. This was the second time Council voted to ban private special event permits for Bruce's Beach. My understanding is that this event will kick off at Bruce's Beach and continue at Polliwog Park. This goes against the March vote.

Also, why were high schoolers who don't pay taxes or vote allowed to participate in a community survey? This defies logic unless one is trying to get the vote to move in a certain direction.

I just wanted to voice my concern and disappointment. Hopefully more time will be spent concerning what the voting residents of MB want.

Respectfully,

Judi Alves

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** denise berger <dberger710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** List - City Council; List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth Plans

**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear City Council -

I'm supportive of the City hosting a Juneteenth 2024 celebration.

I understand there are 40 years to Costa students who raised their hand to help plan the celebration). This is about celebrating an important national holiday, and figuring out the best way to do this in MB AND honoring the next generation of our citizens who obviously care about diversity, inclusion and belonging.

I support the recommendations from the Parks & Rec Commission:

- **A solemn event on Wed Jun 19**, commemorating actual Juneteenth with a community processional starting at Bruce's Beach, and heading towards the beach.
  - The Commission proposes that such an event would not last more than 1 hr, starting at 10am.
  - The City held a plaque dedication ceremony at Bruce's Beach in March and has demonstrated that it is possible to host respectful events that are not disruptions to our neighborhoods. In fact, it was seen by all who attended as a beautiful community gathering.
  - Schools would be out for the summer break, making it an easy opportunity for students to participate in this meaningful cultural celebration.
- **A music festival on Sat Jun 22 at Polliwog Park** - this would have music and food vendors. I attended El Segundo's Juneteenth 2023 celebration and hope we can mimic (and learn) from their success. It was a beautiful, family-friendly, cultural affair. My only nit was that they didn't have enough food vendors to support their 700 attendees. (So this is one of my recommendations to our Parks & Rec team). Consider having a variety of food vendors. Tasting the food and treats that have special meaning to a people's culture is a wonderful way to build a connection. (It's why International Food Fairs at MBUSD are so popular!)
- **Hire a consultant / event planner** - planning a Juneteenth celebration should be done with authenticity. Just like you wouldn't have men spearhead a women's celebration event or have a non-Veteran lead the charge in planning a Veterans Day event, it behooves the City to hire an experienced consultant to work with Parks & Rec to plan a Juneteenth that we can all be proud of. I trust the City to setup a vetting process for this.

I've seen e-comments which dismiss the survey results, saying that it is mostly students who want this celebration. Costa students may not be homeowners, but they are students in our MB community, and many are near voting-age. Given that MB prides itself in being a family-oriented community, **student voices on matters like this are just as equally important as tax-paying residents like myself.**

Finally, Juneteenth is a national holiday celebrating the joys of freedom, and **the City has a responsibility to curate a safe space by directing the conversation and sentiments of the public towards a positive, unified and welcoming direction.** Support or even silence in the face of racist or discriminatory commentary would validate and encourage such sentiments. The African American community should not be invited into a hostile space, it is our responsibility to nurture positive discourse.

I am thankful that our City made a commitment to celebrate Juneteenth in 2024. Please remind our residents that Juneteenth is an enriching, educational and valuable celebration for *all* Americans.

Thank you,

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Diana Skaar <dianaskaar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:58 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Juneteenth 2024 in MB

**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Mayor Montgomery and City Councilmembers,

I'm supportive of the City hosting a Juneteenth 2024 celebration.

I shared my thoughts in the community survey sent in July.

I participated in the community feedback session on Nov 4.

I provided public comment during the Parks & Rec Commission meeting on Nov 27.

I have studied the survey results and the presentation, listened to the comments and concerns from all who spoke in these meetings, and shared my opinions and questions during this process. I want to commend Kari Bell and the Parks & Rec team for giving the community multiple opportunities to provide their feedback and recommendations. Everyone who participated was heard (from residents who have lived here for over 40 years to Costa students who raised their hand to help plan the celebration).

I took the time to become informed so that I can provide meaningful feedback to our City.

This is about celebrating an important national holiday, and figuring out the best way to do this in MB.

I support the recommendations from the Parks & Rec Commission:

- **A solemn event on Wed Jun 19**, commemorating actual Juneteenth with a community processional starting at Bruce's Beach, and heading towards the beach.
  - The Commission proposes that such an event would not last more than 1 hr, starting at 10am.
  - The City held a plaque dedication ceremony at Bruce's Beach in March and has demonstrated that it is possible to host respectful events that are not disruptions to our neighborhoods. In fact, it was seen by all who attended as a beautiful community gathering.
  - Schools would be out for the summer break, making it an easy opportunity for students to participate in this meaningful cultural celebration.
- **A music festival on Sat Jun 22 at Polliwog Park** - this would have music and food vendors. I attended El Segundo's Juneteenth 2023 celebration and hope we can mimic (and learn) from their success. It was a beautiful, family-friendly, cultural affair. My only nit was that they didn't have enough food vendors to support their 700 attendees. (So this is one of my recommendations to our Parks & Rec team). Consider having a variety of food vendors. Tasting the food and treats that have special meaning to a people's culture is a wonderful way to build a connection. (It's why International Food Fairs at MBUSD are so popular!)
- **Hire a consultant / event planner** - planning a Juneteenth celebration should be done with authenticity. Just like you wouldn't have men spearhead a women's celebration event or have a non-Veteran lead the charge in planning a Veterans Day event, it behooves the City to hire an experienced consultant to work with Parks & Rec to plan a Juneteenth that we can all be proud of. I trust the City to setup a vetting process for this.

I've seen e-comments which dismiss the survey results, saying that it is mostly students who want this celebration. Costa students may not be homeowners, but they are students in our MB community, and many are near voting-age. Given that MB prides itself in being a family-oriented community, **student voices on matters like this are just as equally important as tax-paying residents like myself.**

Finally, Juneteenth is a national holiday celebrating the joys of freedom, and **the City has a responsibility to curate a safe space by directing the conversation and sentiments of the public towards a positive, unified and welcoming direction.** Support or even silence in the face of racist or discriminatory commentary would validate and encourage such sentiments. The African American community should not be invited into a hostile space, it is our responsibility to nurture positive discourse.

I am thankful that our City made a commitment to celebrate Juneteenth in 2024. Please remind our residents that Juneteenth is an enriching, educational and valuable celebration for *all* Americans.

Thank you,  
Diana Skaar  
MB Resident & Parent