

**Martha Alvarez, MMC**

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**From:** Birkel, Julia L. <jbirkel@hfbllp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:22 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting 12/5/23: Support for Juneteenth Celebration

**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 Council,  
I wholeheartedly support a city-sponsored Juneteenth Celebration in Manhattan Beach.  
We all consider ourselves to be a welcoming and inclusive community.  
However, we weren't always, as the sad history of Bruce's Beach finally became known to the community.  
100 years ago our City Council engaged in a disgraceful fraud and perjury in order to take property from Black residents of our community. It has had ripple effects for a Century that damaged our community.  
We first issued a tepid acknowledgment, and then finally an apology to the Bruce Family.  
We are home to Bruce's Beach, and the hallowed ground it has come to represent in striving for a diverse community that is truly welcoming to all.  
What our City does and says matters.  
I'm extremely disheartened to see some of the comments of residents opposing the City sponsoring a celebration. I'm afraid it comes from a lack of education and desire to whitewash history.  
Amazing members of our community worked thousands of hours putting together a history that is well-researched and factual, and that is a great credit to Manhattan Beach.  
Let's get out in front in a positive way that we can all be proud of and once and for all to show who we are as a community.  
The City Council voted to consider a celebration in 2024, and anything short of now following through will send a message of divisiveness.  
Let's send a message of peace and unity, and celebrate the day on which all Americans became free.  
Nothing but good can come of this.  
Thank you for your consideration,  
Julie Birkel



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## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Julie Cashin <julie@juliecashin.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 30K funds for Juneteenth discussion

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

I couldn't fit this into the 1,000 characters online, so I am submitting the full text here. Thank you

I propose redirecting the \$30,000 towards initiatives that would have a more widespread and lasting impact, such as bolstering the downtown outdoor dining program. I'm interested in how that committee is progressing.

Allocating a substantial sum for a singular event appears somewhat short-sighted and potentially politically motivated, giving the impression of favoritism. I think the city can do better. This concern is particularly notable in the absence of a corresponding commitment to other significant holidays throughout the year. A more equitable approach might involve seeking funds for various federal holidays, allowing residents the flexibility to choose and support events of personal significance.

If Mira Coast students express interest in supporting a specific event, encouraging them to independently raise funds through engaging local businesses and organizing community-driven initiatives seems like an alternative suggestion and a great opportunity for students to get involved.

Given the available budget, directing it towards fortifying the downtown area with an attractive outdoor dining program could yield substantial benefits. This approach not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of our city but also provides a sustained avenue for local businesses to flourish, ultimately contributing to increased city tax revenue. The vision of a beautifully thought out year-round outdoor dining in our coastal city is an enticing prospect worth considering.

Therefore, please reconsider spending 30k on one event.

Thank you,  
Julie Cashin  
Current resident  
4th generation of Manhattan Beach

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Tina Shivpuri <tina@shivpuri.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Juneteenth

**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 Council Member,

I am thankful our City made a commitment to celebrate Juneteenth in 2024.

I have reviewed the survey results. (The powerpoint at this time was not accessible.) I wanted to share the following thoughts:

1) I noticed that a significant number of the respondents were under 18 years old. This is an indication our youth are interested in civic engagement and want to weigh in on this event in Manhattan Beach. It would be helpful for those that are skeptical of this overwhelming “under 18” survey participation to see the results excluding the “under 18” demographic.

2) I am encouraged by the number of youth that participated in the survey as this is an indication of the number of youth/families that will be interested in attending our event(s).

Thank you for taking the time to engage the community as we look for ways to celebrate a new federal holiday.

Sincerely,  
Tina Shivpuri

[tina@shivpuri.com](mailto:tina@shivpuri.com) email  
1-415-336-5075 mobile

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Nina Tarnay <ninatarnay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:43 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Juneteenth Event

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

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

I support our City sponsoring or partnering with sponsor(s) for an official Juneteenth celebration/recognition. Such a celebration would go a long way in our pursuit to heal past wrongs and show the world we stand united against injustice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Nina

## Martha Alvarez, MMC

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**From:** Brenda O'Leary <brendajoleary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A Juneteenth Event in Manhattan Beach

**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 Council -

As we all know, the events around Bruce's Beach have highlighted the history of Manhattan Beach's relationship with the Black community. This history has inspired some of our residents to build a bridge with the Black community through education and experience. One of the proposed ideas to help build that bridge is an event honoring the holiday Juneteenth, which celebrates the day enslaved people were declared free.

I believe this idea conveys an important message. However, like all ideas, the actual success is in the execution. People like to be educated but they don't like to be forced - it tends to backfire. In my opinion, this event needs to be presented in a way that is non-threatening to our taxpayers. \$30k in taxpayer money is expensive for an event that has received limited community support. The City has coordinated some nice events recently in support of our Jewish community that did not cost \$30k. I believe a similar event on the actual day of Juneteenth (a Wednesday) would convey the same message without some of the challenges of a large, expensive event on a Saturday (which is not Juneteenth).

I also believe it would benefit the City to start small and build up to a larger event over time. If we do go forward with the larger event, El Segundo has had success bringing in "Black in Mayberry," a non-profit sponsor, and coordinating sponsorships to subsidize the cost so it does not all fall on the taxpayers.

I appreciate that the heart of the City is in the right place here, and wish you success on the outcome.

Best,

Brenda