

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 06/14/22

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 22-0427

**LOG NAME:** 21 OPAL LEE WALK 2022

## **SUBJECT**

(CD 9) Authorize Execution of a Non-Exclusive License and Location Use Agreement with Unity Unlimited, Inc. Celebrating Juneteenth 2022 - Opal's Walk for Freedom Allowing for a Three Day License of Certain Parking Areas and Defined Lobby Areas Located at the Future City Hall Building at No Cost on June 16-18, 2022 and Find that the Conveyance of the License Serves a Public Purpose and that Adequate Controls are in Place

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize Execution of a Non-Exclusive License and Location Use Agreement with Unity Unlimited, Inc. celebrating Juneteenth 2022 - Opal's Walk for Freedom allowing for a Three Day License of certain parking areas and defined lobby areas located at the Future City Hall Building at no cost on June 16-18, 2022; and
  2. Find that the conveyance of the license agreement at no cost to Unity Unlimited, Inc. serves a public purpose by providing space for the public to enjoy the celebration of Juneteenth 2022 - Opal's Walk for Freedom Parade, and that adequate controls are in place to carry out such public purpose.
- 

## **DISCUSSION:**

On June 17, 2021 the President signed into law a bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.

Unity Unlimited, Inc. (Unity) is a non-profit organization that would like to recognize the effort of Opal Lee's contribution to having Juneteenth be recognized as a federal holiday. The Opal's Walk for Freedom Parade (Parade), which will be held on June 18, 2022, has been organized by Unity and they have obtained a special event permit through the City of Fort Worth (City) for the Parade. The planned route of the Parade currently ends at the future City Hall Building and Unity has requested the ability to use the surface lot in front of the future City Hall Building to celebrate and commemorate the Juneteenth Holiday after the Parade has concluded. Additionally, Unity would like to allow parade spectators to park and observe the parade at no cost and has requested that the City allow for the use of the 5th Street and Forest Park Blvd. Surface Lot (5th St. Lot) and the 4th floor of the Parking Garage (Garage Lot) at the future City Hall for parking purposes and staging of equipment. The license agreement will also allow for Unity, through its sub-contractors, to film the Parade and subsequent activities on the licensed premises.

The use of the front surface lot at the future City Hall will include the temporary installation of a stage at East building entrance for VIPs and Special Guests, video production equipment, video production vehicles, TV Equipment, and buses.

The use of the 5th St. Lot and the Garage Lot will allow for parking in specific areas to be defined by the Non-Exclusive License and Location Use Agreement.

The license agreement will allow for Unity to stage equipment and other items two days prior to the Parade in preparation for the festivities and also to set up filming equipment that will be used for a live-stream of the Parade as well as to conduct interviews with Opal and others.

As part of the Parade celebrating Juneteenth in 2022, Unity will be allowed to raise a Flag on the City's North flag pole on which the City of Fort Worth flag is flown as part of the ceremonies and leave it up for the day on June 18, 2022. The City is allowing the use of the flag pole as a one-time allowance for the observation of Juneteenth as a federal holiday as well as to acknowledge the significant role of Opal Lee in the national recognition of Juneteenth as a national day of observance.

The Property Management Department is recommending this license be provided at no-cost to Unity who is hosting the Parade in order to commemorate this federal holiday and provide access to the public to enjoy the Parade. It is staff's position that this purpose constitutes a valid public purpose and is amenable to the non-exclusive short-term license agreement. City staff will be present to ensure the public purpose is carried out.

---

## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Dana Burghdoff 8018

**Originating Business Unit Head:**

Steve Cooke 5134

**Additional Information Contact:**

Greg Wingate 0496

Expedited