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c/o Freedom Unlimited 2201 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-212-8775

The Black Political Empowerment Project Statement 2024 Juneteenth Celebration

May 10, 2024

The Black Political Empowerment Project has great respect for this City's first African American Mayor, his administration, The POISE Foundation, and Mr. B. Marshall of Stop the Violence who nearly single-handedly brought into existence the Juneteenth Holiday celebration in Pittsburgh and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as coordinated and hosted the Juneteenth celebration for the last eleven years.

We are concerned that we are at an awkward moment among people and institutions we respect. We are concerned that something as important as the Juneteenth celebration which should be a celebration for all and particularly for African Americans is experiencing a potentially negative moment in the history of this city. It is important for the African American Community in Pittsburgh to be able to celebrate and enjoy this great holiday without equivocation. We are therefore calling for a time out and for all parties including original agreement as to how funds would be utilized toward the cost of the Juneteenth Celebration for what we understand to be for both 2023 and 2024.

It's a LIFETIME COMMITMENT...

**African Americans VOTE in EACH and EVERY election!!
Celebrating the 59th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.**

Email: b-pepinfo@b-pep.net

Website: www.b-pep.net

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Because we are only a little more than one month from the Juneteenth festivities, it is imperative that this review process take place expeditiously with a view toward resolving all differences in an honest and forthright manner.

Again, we make this request in the spirit of Juneteenth so we may once again celebrate an energetic, positive, and uplifting occasion for all of Pittsburgh. We ask that this process be accomplished with as little animus as possible.

Thank you,

Tim S. Stevens

**Tim S. Stevens
CEO and Chairman
The Black Political Employment Project
Co-convener, Greater Pittsburgh Coalition
Against Violence (CAV)
Facilitator, Corporate Equity & Inclusion Roundtable
(CEIR) 412-758-7898**

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