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WILLIAM SCARBOROUGH
Assemblyman 29th District

March 19, 2015

Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor,

Attached please find a letter from a prominent Queens youth organization, The Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, requesting that you declare June 19, 2015 a state holiday of the 150th Anniversary of Juneteenth, as is being done in Texas. As you see, the day is planned as a vehicle for teaching young people about fulfilling Dr. King's Dream, fighting gun violence and becoming productive citizens.

This is a worthy goal, which you previously recognized with a proclamation on Juneteenth of 2013 (attached). Thank you for your positive consideration of this request. Resolutions have been introduced in both the Senate and the Assembly in regard to this issue.

Sincerely,

William Scarborough
Assemblyman, 29th A.D.

James Sanders
Senator, 10th S.D.

Enclosures



February 18, 2015

William Scarborough, Assemblyman
New York State Assembly
129-32 Merrick Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11434

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Dear Assemblyman Scarborough:

Just a quick follow-up to our discussion yesterday. It was great talking to you about our proposal to have Governor Cuomo declare "Juneteenth" a State Holiday this year as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Selma, which led to the Voting Rights Act and the 150th anniversary of the "Ending of Slavery", a day we proudly call "Juneteenth."

We have reached out to Senator Sanders and will inform him about the strategy of drafting a joint letter from both of you to the Governor to honor the people's request. When we needed something to be done in Albany you and Senator Sanders have been there to serve the needs of the community and we respect and appreciate both of you for your support. It is our hope that with both of you working together we can accomplish this monumental task, which will be used as a platform to educate our youth about the importance of these two historical events in history where we celebrate the right to vote and being free.

We have to teach young citizens about their history and that they have a responsibility to fulfill the "Dream of Dr. King." With you and Senator Sanders' help we will be able to keep crime down by educating young citizens about their culture and give them the hope of becoming productive law-abiding citizens. In Texas Juneteenth is a State Holiday and we should expect no less from the Greatest State in the Nation.

Thank you again and we will be in touch regarding this request. We will forward this over to the Senator's office as well.

Respectfully yours,

Charles Fisher

Charles Fisher
Founder

CC: Senator James Sanders, Jr.

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"Launching a Movement for Unity & Improvement"



Proclamation

Whereas, all New Yorkers join with the African American community during the celebration of Juneteenth, an observance that has come to commemorate the abolition of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the origin of Juneteenth dates back to June 19, 1865, when federal troops led by Major General Gordon Granger delivered news of the Emancipation Proclamation to slaves and slave-owners in Texas; and

Whereas, the commemoration of Juneteenth honors the history, perseverance, and achievements of African Americans, and celebrates America's progress and continuing commitment to realizing the principles of liberty and equality upon which our nation was founded; and

Whereas, this observance is a reminder of the hardships and losses suffered by African Americans in their struggle to attain their freedom, and its message is one that resonates with people of all backgrounds; and

Whereas, as celebrations and events are held throughout the Empire State – from Brooklyn to Buffalo – Juneteenth provides an opportunity to reflect upon and rejoice in the freedom and civil rights that all Americans share, and it is fitting that all New Yorkers join to recognize such an important day in our nation's history;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize June 19, 2013 as

JUNETEENTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day of May in the year two thousand thirteen.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".

Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Schwartz".