TULSA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 2, 2019
TO: Chairman and Board Members
FROM: Office of Tulsa Development Authority
SUBJECT: Tulsa Juneteenth Celebration

Background:

Owner: Tulsa Development Authority
Developer: Tulsa Juneteenth Board
Engineer: N/A
Location: East of N. Greenwood Avenue, north of the ODOT right-of-way for I-244, west of the railroad right-of-way, south of the OSU parking lot, less and except the Vernon A.M.E. Church property.
Size of Tract: 6.3 acres
Number of Lots: 1 Lot
Development Area: Greenwood District
Fair Market Value: N/A
Executive Director: O.C. Walker

Relevant Info:

This is a request to the TDA Board of Commissioner’s from the Tulsa Juneteenth Board to allow the use of TDA-owned land located East of N. Greenwood Avenue, north of the ODOT right-of-way for I-244, west of the railroad right-of-way, south of the OSU parking lot, less and except the Vernon A.M.E. Church, to host the Tulsa Juneteenth Celebration. The dates of the event are from June 13, 2019 to June 16, 2019. Staff recommends this item is approved subject to the following list of conditions:

- Provide insurance, and include TDA on the declaration page
- Ensure that security is on site
- Clean up each night and after the event
- Include the TDA logo on marketing materials as a community sponsor

Attachments: Letter from the Tulsa Juneteenth Board dated April 23, 2019

Recommendations: Staff recommends this item be approved subject to a list of conditions.

Reviewed By: O.C. Walker
Dear O.C. Walker,

This letter is to request permission to use Tulsa Development Authority's property located on 700 North Greenwood Ave specifically the OSU lawn for the Tulsa Juneteenth Festival.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Celebrated in June, Juneteenth is a great cultural celebration that takes place in many cities across the nation and has been celebrated in Tulsa for over 20 years.

A team of community-based organizations and community members came together to create the collaborative Tulsa Juneteenth Planning Committee four years ago. Last year, attendance exceeded our expectations and demonstrated the significance of this historical celebration returning to the African-American community on Greenwood Ave. This celebration takes place in the Heart of the Historic Greenwood District and IDL on June 13 - 16, 2019.

Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed, brightens our future - and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

Please let me know if you can grant us this permission to use your premises.

Best Regards,

Sherry Gamble-Smith
Black Wall Street Chamber of Commerce
President/CEO
Tulsa Juneteenth, Inc.