

Carl Hoffman

From: Roger Bell <rbofrbjb52@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 3:34 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Congresswoman Andrea Salinas; Denise Quinn Nanke; Ed Diehl; Deanna Gwyn; Julie Hoy; Preston Mann (Oregon Business & Industry)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comments for 8 June 2026 public meeting

First off, the idea of declaring a proclamation of "June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day" is so offensive that there aren't words that can describe my disgust that this is being proposed and considered by this council! These United States of America have only one National Independence Day and that is the 4th of July - that should have been the end of the discussion on that proposed proclamation. For the progressives on the council and those proposing this abomination, I refer you to our American history. It was President Abraham Lincoln who issued the Emancipation Proclamation (Proclamation 95) following the Civil War. Remember, the one where the Democrats of the Southern States tried to secede from the Union in part so they could continue slavery as a cheap dehumanizing work force. Anyway, the Emancipation Proclamation became effective on January 1st, 1863, it declared all slaves to be free. Now for part two, the politicians get involved. In order to make the Emancipation Proclamation permanent the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution was developed - it took until the 31st of January 1865 (just over two years later) to get the US House of Representatives to pass it. The US Senate was somewhat faster, they passed it on the 8th of April 1865 (just over two months later). This is where a side note can be inserted: on the 19th of June 1865 is when the Union sent official word to Texas residents that slavery was abolished (this was a reasonable action since Texas was one of the gathering places for Southern Democrats of the Confederacy after the Civil War). Back to real world facts: the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified by the states on the 6th of December 1865, that marked the constitutional end of slavery in the United States of America. Obviously, the mentality that justified slavery in the first place is BS and needs to die. But making up BS holidays and declaring incendiary proclamations that slap the face of every American Citizen, regardless of the pigmentation of their skin, does nothing to bring our citizens together, it just keeps the divisional BS in this country alive.

Second item, this idea that the city should designate time and money to "... urging Oregon's federal delegation to work to solve the broken immigration system and protect immigrant communities from unlawful actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement" is another example of misdirection of resources. How about urging Oregon's federal delegation to get the deep drawdown of Detroit Reservoir stopped. That would actually help the residents of Salem and the surrounding communities and save some tax payer dollars. Side note: this BS about unlawful actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement runs along the same lines as the incendiary verbiage in my comment above. If a person or persons are in the United States of America legally, they should never be in fear. It was the mass, uncontrolled entrance of people from other countries that masked the volumes of Illegal Aliens that has created this situation. Then we have people in leadership positions that refuse to work with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (ICE) to help weed out the bad actors. If these leaders would work with the federal law enforcement officers, they could then devote more time and energy to helping those who are trying to legally immigrate to the United States of America; to help them assimilate into our culture and become proud American citizens.

Last item, this is going to piss off some progressives, but this Pride thing has run its course. If you're persuasion runs counter to a natural, biological function, that is for you to deal with. I find it ridiculous

to require that the rest of the population have a government sponsored, formal acknowledgement of any idiosyncrasies for any group of people. It's a waste of time and resources by government personal that could be better used elsewhere.

Submitted by Roger Bell, Salem, Oregon

Ward 4

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