



*Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation*

P O Box 1007, Missouri City, TX 77489

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June 23, 2008

City of Missouri City  
**Park & Recreation Department**  
Missouri City, Texas

RE: Open Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

The Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (MCJCF) ...and all of its participating membership are pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Missouri City's Park & Recreation Department's grant application to provide funds to improve and further its development of the "Freedom Tree" park.

As envisioned, the park will include added green space, a walking trail, a tree grove, a playground and interpretive markers at the Freedom Tree site. These improvements that will help ensure local residents and the greater community will continue to have access to the rich heritage this site contains.

For the past six years, the "Freedom Tree" has served as the backdrop for our annual Juneteenth re-enactments as both the foundation and event attendees have benefited from the vast historical elements that underlie nearly two hundred (200) years of existence.

More importantly and of immediate relevance, this location, this tree is deemed as hallowed ground from the MCJCF's perspective as beneath the branches of this historic Freedom Tree it has long been alleged to having been an area where slaves learned of their freedom nearly a century and a half ago.

...The essential ingredients -- the core standards of this foundation's existence is to promote cultural awareness while providing financial support for Fort Bend County students and other worthwhile charitable organizations.

The proposed improvements made to the "Freedom Tree" Park will continue to provide a solid cornerstone for the Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation to build on its efforts in continuance of its core directives and to further fulfillment of its Mission and Vision Statements.

Not every resident of this area will witness our annual reenactments but all will benefit from the efforts proposed by the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department.

We are a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable organization. Our members donate their time and energy in support our foundation's endeavors; this too meets our initiatives and truly merits all of our support in participation to its beautification and needed improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick L. Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derrick" being more prominent than the last name "Woods".

Derrick L. Woods  
Executive Director