



Johnnie Hannah
Councilman 5th Ward

June 14, 2024

Honorable Mayor Malik
166 S. High Street, 2nd Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308

Dear Mr. Mayor:

We are writing to express grave concerns regarding the Juneteeth celebrations that are scheduled to take place during this weekend on city property.

As you know, the tragedy that occurred on June 2nd in the neighborhood of Kelly Ave. and 8th Ave. has had a profound impact on the victims, community, city, and nation. In your own words, “the pain and trauma reverberate across all of Akron today as we search for answers”. We believe to allow city-sanctioned gatherings so soon after this tragedy is irresponsible.

Just today, violence broke out at the funeral of the young man killed in the horrific June 2nd mass shooting.


We strongly urge that the events be cancelled for the following reasons:

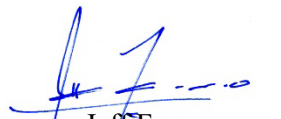
- Tensions are still high. People are heartbroken and grieving throughout the city and seemingly lacking in skills to calmly resolve issues without using violence.
- The shooter(s) are still at-large and freely roaming our city.
- Large gathering and parades set the stage for a copycat or retaliatory shooting and gives an already traumatized community a false sense of safety in the absence of the culprits being caught.


We do not need a repeat occurrence. We respectfully request that you cancel these events in the interest of public safety!


Sincerely,

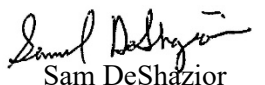

Margo Sommerville
Councilwoman 3rd Ward



Johnnie Hannah
Councilman 5th Ward
President



Jeff Fusco
At-Large Councilman
Vice-President


Brad McKittrick
Councilman 6th Ward
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Councilwoman 4th Ward

JMW/ms

