

*Rites of Passage Society
202 Winters Lane
Vicksburg, MS 39183*

May 11, 2018

Mayor and Aldermen
City of Vicksburg
1401 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Gentlemen:,

The Rites of Passage Society (ROPS) is planning a Juneteenth Heritage Festival Celebration, June 16, 2018 at City Park Pavilion, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Juneteenth is a national celebration held annually in June celebrating the end of slavery. It is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Juneteenth Heritage Festival will be a day-long free event featuring speakers, live music, DJ, dancers, spoken word, health fair, kids zone, vendors and more. It has been in past years a successful free event in Vicksburg. The festival will be a day of food and fun for everyone.

ROPS is a not-for-profit mentoring organization for boys and girls ages 13 – 18 years of age. ROPS teaches youth to become responsible young adults through a series of lectures, required reading, mentoring and various individual and group activities including community events.

Request the gratis use of the City Park Pavilion Saturday, June 16 and a donation of \$2,000 from the City of Vicksburg to help defray the cost of the festival. The City of Vicksburg name and seal will be advertised as a sponsor of the festival. Your support of the Juneteenth Heritage Festival is appreciated.

\$5000.00

Please make check payable to, "Rites of Passage Society" and send it to 202 Winters Ln, Vicksburg, MS 39183. You may contact me at phone numbers, 601.529.3490 or 601.638.8271, email heritagems2@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the ROPS events.

Sincerely,

Ezell McDonald

Mrs. Ezell McDonald
Founder, Rites of Passage Society