

NO KING RALLY

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parade, held in Washington, D.C. at an estimated cost of \$25 million to \$45 million according to ABC News.

Inside Trump's \$45 Million Birthday Parade

The military parade was billed as a patriotic celebration of the U.S. Army's founding, but drew sharp criticism for its opulence and political overtones. Taxpayer dollars covered:

- Over 6,600 active-duty troops marching in carefully choreographed formations.
- More than 150 military vehicles, including tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and Humvees.
- 50 military aircraft, including stealth bombers, fighter jets, helicopters, and refueling planes.
- Massive security operations, with Secret Service, National Guard, and local police deployed.
- Grandstand construction, staging, logistics, fuel, lodging, and road repairs after heavy equipment damaged parade routes.

Critics, including lawmakers and veterans' organizations, called the event wasteful at a time when millions of Americans are struggling with everyday expenses. Senator Richard Blumenthal labeled the event "the epitome of government waste".

Alabamians Grapple with Escalating Financial Hardship

For Alabama residents, frustration over federal spending collided with mounting personal financial struggles:

- **Housing Prices:** Median home prices have surged to \$289,700, up 4.6% year-over-year (Redfin).
- **Rent:** Monthly rent averages \$1,205 statewide, even higher in cities like Huntsville and Birmingham (Redfin).
- **Healthcare:** National healthcare costs are rising 5% in 2025 (Brown & Brown).
- **Cost of Living:** Everyday necessities continue to outpace wage growth (Salary.com).

Thousands Protest Across Alabama

At least 14 Alabama cities participated in the movement:

- **Mobile:** ~2,000 gathered at Government Plaza.
- **Montgomery:** 400+ assembled at the Archives and History Department.
- **Tuscaloosa:** Several hundred rallied at the Richard Shelby Federal Courthouse.
- **Huntsville:** Peaceful demonstrations held at Campus 805.

Nationwide, over 2,100 protests took place, with an estimated 4 to 6 million participants.

A Historic Inflection Point

While the White House touted the parade as a show of patriotism, many Americans saw it as disconnected from their daily realities. For millions struggling with housing, healthcare, and basic expenses, "No Kings Day" was a message that democracy must serve the people — not power itself.

SAFE OR ASHAMED

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a D.R. Horton home building site in Montgomery? Or from Leonardo Garcia Venegas, an American citizen? He was on a construction site in Foley attempting to video ICE agents detaining a fellow worker. He told Telemundo that agents knocked the phone out of his hand, then would not believe his Real ID was real. "They told me it was fake. Said it wasn't valid and that it was fake. My ID," he said. "They handcuffed me and they handcuffed me really tight." Hours later, the Florida-born Venegas was released.

Are we safe from the farm worker chased through crops in Oxnard, California, presumably by federal agents?

From people being tearfully yanked from spouses and families across the nation, ICE'd in hallways outside immigration courts while attending routine hearings?

From the 28 allegedly undocumented migrants who were arrested after vans they were in were pulled over on the Dauphin Island Parkway in Mobile County for alleged traffic violations?

The county's Sheriff's office released a statement saying it "continues to work daily with our Federal Partners to protect our community by faithfully executing the immigration laws of the United States."

Ah, to protect us. Are we safe yet? Or is what we're feeling in our gut actually shame?

Trump believes that if he says something enough times, no matter how absurdly incorrect or foul it may be, it'll become fact. At least in the minds of steadfast loyalists, those who support him, no matter how absurd, illegal or immoral his actions and policies may be.

Deportations rid us of "criminals, rapists and murderers," he's declared more times than can be counted — and he'll keep on declaring until we're convinced of it. In fact, according to data compiled by The Washington Post, almost 1 in 4 people detained by ICE nationwide since Trump was inaugurated in January have no criminal conviction or pending criminal cases.

Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, which compiles immigration figures, estimates that as of the end of May, about 44% of the 51,302 people in ICE detention facilities had no criminal record other than a lack of immigration documentation.

As of late, Trump's clear order was to ratchet up detainee numbers in a pitiful attempt to fulfill an unattainable campaign promise.

To keep score rather than keep us safe. "Since President Trump assumed office last January, the primary emphasis has been on increasing immigration civil arrests and removals," writes the group at Syracuse. "These levels have not met this administration's targets."

Yet they have met resistance. Good and necessary resistance.

"No Kings" rallies scheduled for Saturday in Alabama and throughout the U.S. are clear evidence of our growing disdain for the daily images showing the heartless treatment of migrants.

Images that make many of us squirm. Resistance, too, from business leaders whose industries would inevitably be squeezed by a mass deportation. Industries already seeing workers staying home out of fear.

Resistance that finally made Trump bow to a truth he surprisingly acknowledged Thursday in a social media post, vowing policy changes (don't believe it, of course) after admitting his deportations are hurting the farming and hospitality industries.

That they're not safe. They're not for our good. Nor are they protecting us.

Indeed, the people vowing to protect us from people who have no protection are the ones we truly need to be protected from.

DR. PATRICIA SIMS

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rigorous interview and vetting process designed to ensure that board members reflect and serve the best interests of the community.

"I am honored to join the Health Care Authority Board and support the mission of Huntsville Hospital Health System," said Dr. Sims. "I look forward to contributing to its continued impact, helping to advance access to high-quality care and strengthen the health and well-being of our region."

Dr. Sims will join a distinguished group of community leaders on the Authority as they guide policy, strategy, and investment across the hospital system's extensive network.

RACIST LETTER

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The City strongly condemns this incident. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect."

The Huntsville-Madison County NAACP Branch #5034 also condemned the letter, calling it "This act of hatred is not only a personal attack on a dedicated public servant, but also an assault on the values of equity, justice, and dignity that we, as a society, must uphold." The organization urged local authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly and hold those responsible accountable.

Watkins made history in November 2024 when she was elected as the first Black woman to the Huntsville City Council. A graduate of Alabama A&M University, she previously served for eight years on the Huntsville City Board of Education and has been actively involved in various community organizations.

As of now, there has been no confirmation of an official investigation into the incident. However, community members and leaders continue to rally around Councilwoman Watkins, emphasizing the need to confront racism and promote inclusivity in the Huntsville community.

CITY COUNCIL

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gies, and the Chief Innovation Office. Representatives from each department provided updates on initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural inclusivity, increasing housing access for all income levels, and modernizing city services through innovation.

"Transparency and engagement are key," said Meredith. "These forums exist so our residents know exactly what's being done in their neighborhoods — and how they can be a part of it." The evening concluded with an open Q&A, giving residents a direct platform to voice concerns and offer solutions.

Just days later, at the June 12 City Council meeting, infrastructure and economic development took center stage. Most notably, the Council postponed a vote on a proposed sewer rate increase, which would fund a \$150 million overhaul of Huntsville's aging sewer systems — some dating back to the 1950s. The delay allows more time for public feedback ahead of the rescheduled vote on June 26.

"We owe it to the public to fully explain the need for these investments," said Councilman David Little, who advocated for further community outreach before raising rates that could increase monthly residential bills from \$24.15 to \$39.15 by 2034.

The Council also greenlit amendments to the Stadium Commons development at Joe Davis Stadium, keeping its \$35.2 million first phase on track for late 2025 completion. However, delays in the adjacent Hilton hotel's opening — now set for December 2026 — were acknowledged, with branding changes shifting the focus to Hilton's LivSmart Studios and Tru by Hilton lines.

In addition, final contracts were approved for neighborhood road resurfacing and ADA compliance projects, signaling continued investment in Huntsville's infrastructure at the street level.

Together, these two meetings reinforced a growing emphasis on public participation, community development, and long-term planning across city government.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or watch the livestream on HSV-TV.

ADOPTED 06/12/25

ORDINANCE NO. 25-450

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, finds that an application has been presented to the City of Huntsville requesting the vacation of a utility and drainage easement; that the applicant has represented to the City of Huntsville that CITI CAPITAL HOLDING, L.L.C., is the owner of the property across which said easement lies; that said easement, or the portion being vacated, is not presently used and is no longer needed for a public or municipal purpose.

Section 2. Pursuant to the findings in Section 1 hereinabove, the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, is hereby authorized, requested and directed to execute a quitclaim deed vacating the easement hereinafter described, said deed being substantially in words and figures as follows, to-wit:

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF MADISON

QUITCLAIM DEED

THIS INDENTURE MADE AND ENTERED into on this the 12th day of June, 2025, by and between CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, a municipal corporation within the State of Alabama, hereinafter referred to as "Party of the First Part" and CITI CAPITAL HOLDING, L.L.C., a Nevada limited liability company, hereinafter referred to as "Party of the Second Part".

WITNESSETH

THAT FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of Ten and no/100 (\$10.00) Dollars and other good and valuable considerations to the Party of the First Part in hand paid by the Party of the Second Part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Party of the First Part does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the Party of the Second Part, all of its right, title, interest, claim and demand which it may have in and to the following described property in the City of Huntsville, County of Madison, State of Alabama, to-wit:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBITS "A" AND "B" AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the Party of the Second Part, its successors and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Party of the First Part has hereunto caused this quitclaim deed to be signed in its behalf by Tommy Battle, as Mayor of the City of Huntsville, a municipal corporation within the State of Alabama, and attested by its City Clerk, Shaundrika Edwards, on the day and year hereinabove first written.

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,
a municipal corporation

Tommy Battle
By: Tommy Battle
Its: Mayor

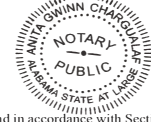
ATTEST:

S. Edwards
By: Shaundrika Edwards
Its: City Clerk

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF MADISON

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, hereby certify that TOMMY BATTLE and SHAUNDRIKA EDWARDS, whose names as Mayor and City Clerk, respectively, of the CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, a municipal corporation are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that being informed of the contents of said conveyance, they, as such officers and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily and as the act of said corporation on the day the same bears date.

GIVEN under my hand and seal this the 12th day of June, 2025.



Shaundrika Edwards
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 10, 2029

Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 40-22-1 of the Code of Alabama (1975), the following information is offered in lieu of submitting Form RT-1:

Date of Transfer: _____, 2025
Grantor's Address: 308 Fountain Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801
Grantee's Address: 4730 S Fort Apache Road, Ste 300, Las Vegas, NV 89147
Property Address: Vacation of easement at 0 Springfield Road NW, Huntsville AL 35806 (Section 17, Township 33 South, Range 1 West)
Purchase Price: \$0 - Nominal value for vacation of easement

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS PREPARED BASED UPON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GRANTEE. NO TITLE EXAMINATION HAS BEEN PERFORMED BY THE PREPARER OF THIS DEED AND NO OPINION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED OR RENDERED WITH RESPECT TO THE TITLE OR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY.

This Instrument prepared by:
Michael E. Brodowski
Brodowski, McCurry, Miller & Hoekenschneider
415A Church Street NW, Suite 200
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 534-4571

brodowski, mccurry capital holdings, hccshelby park phase 200ed-city of hvo vacate easement.doc (db)

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF ALABAMA)
MADISON COUNTY)

10' PUBLIC UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT VACATION

A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE WEST HALF OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT A 5/8" CAPPED IRON PIN (2TP) MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1 OF THE MINOR PLAT OF ASHLEY PARK PHASE 2 AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK PLAT BOOK 2024 PAGE 26, IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST, 5.32 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREE 00 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST, 5.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND HAVING STATE PLANE COORDINATES (EAST ZONE, NAD 83) OF NORTH: 1,557,039.95; EAST: 412,030.40;

THENCE, FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SOUTH 01 DEGREE 00 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST, 938.87 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 52 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 51 SECONDS WEST, 12.45 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREE 00 MINUTES 56 SECONDS EAST, 931.45 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST FOR 10.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 0.21 ACRES (9,352 SQUARE FEET), MORE OR LESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-450 (Cont'd)

ADOPTED this the 12th day of June, 2025.

John Mitchell
President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 12th day of June, 2025.

Tommy Battle
Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama

Hi Everyone!

I'm so excited about JUNETEENTH this year because my new comic book about Juneteenth will be released soon! Enjoy this activity sheet and learn more about the meaning of Juneteenth!

BACK IN TIME...

"Sankofa 82" and I arrived in Galveston, Texas June 19, 1865. There is a lot of celebratory noise and African American former slaves dancing in the roads while singing and shouting. They have just learned that they are FREE! This day became known as Juneteenth with a host of other names, such as: Juneteenth National Independence Day, Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day (TX), Freedom Day and Black Independence Day.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This document stated that slaves who were in states and parts of states in rebellion against the Union would be free. Some two and one-half years later, on June 19, 1865, slaves in Galveston Bay, Texas got the message from U.S. General Gordon Granger that President Lincoln had freed them through an executive order, known in the field as "General Order #3". White southerners suppressed information about the Emancipation Proclamation and continued to hold slaves in bondage until the arrival of the Union Army. General Granger on June 19, 1865 arrived and set 250,000 slaves free. Newly freed Blacks celebrated their official freedom on June 19, 1866. This celebration was given the name JUNETEENTH. Juneteenth is the combination of the words June and tenth coming from 19th. Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday in 1979. President Biden made it an official federal holiday on June 17, 2021.

JUNETEENTH ACTIVITY SHEET

www.KEMETCOMIC.com

TELL THE TRUTH! ✓

Print the letter **T** on the line if the statement is True or **F** if the Statement is False.

General Gordon Granger freed 250,000 slaves in Texas. _____

Another name for Juneteenth is Bondage Day. _____

Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth in 1989. _____

President Biden made Juneteenth a federal holiday in 2021. _____

DID YOU SEE THAT?!

Match the actors with the movie.

Jamie Foxx	Taraji P. Henson	Nate Parker
Chiwetel Ejiofor	Cynthia Ervo	

12 Years a Slave _____

Harriet _____

Hidden Figures _____

Django: Unchained _____

The Birth of a Nation _____

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble the words that have Juneteenth meaning. The first letter of the word is in bold.

mnialEpaicn _____

onlsvGaet _____

eenJthunt _____

nnUoi _____

aclPtoimrano _____

WHAT DO MY SYMBOLS MEAN?

Describe what the symbols and colors mean on the flag.

Red, white, and blue: _____

Star: _____

Date: _____

Curve (arc) joining red and blue: _____

Surrounding Star: _____

GET YOUR COPY OF THE NEW JUNETEENTH COMIC BOOK! VISIT WWW.KEMETCOMIC.COM OR JOEYOUNG.ORG

...JUNETEENTH!

ATTEND AN EVENT

LOVE EACH OTHER MORE

READ A BOOK BY A BLACK AUTHOR

COOK TRADITIONAL FOOD

SUPPORT A BLACK BUSINESS

PUT TOGETHER AN EVENT

WATCH A BLACK MOVIE

I THINK I WROTE EVERY WAY TO CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH! CAN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE?

IF SO, WRITE ME, INTRODUCE YOURSELF, AND YOUR IDEA TO CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH, AND I'LL SEND YOU A FREE KEMET COLLECTOR CARD!

WRITE: KEMET COMICS, C/O JOE YOUNG MEDIA, P.O. BOX 777, HARTFORD, CT 06142-777

*INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED #10 ENVELOPE

JUNETEENTH, 06/15/25, #207 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2025 BY JOE YOUNG