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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2022

Juneteenth Community Empowerment Festival expands to three-day event

Rocky Mount, N.C. – One of the state’s more recognized Juneteenth celebrations returns to Rocky Mount June 17-19 as the city of Rocky Mount will celebrate the 2022 Juneteenth Community Empowerment Festival.

The Juneteenth Community Empowerment Festival is presented by PNC and sponsored by Lidl, Suddenlink, the Juneteenth Planning Committee and the Community Empowerment Association.

This year, the festival has expanded to a free, three-day event. The festival kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 17, with a parade from Albemarle Avenue. to Rose Street. The evening continues with a block party from 6-10 p.m. in downtown Rocky Mount at the corner of Washington and Tarboro Streets. The evening will feature musical acts Chan Hall, The Will McLaughlin Band and Sisaundra Lewis, as well as food trucks and opportunities to support local area businesses.

On Saturday, June 18, the festival remains in downtown Rocky Mount but moves to the lawn of the Helen P. Gay Rocky Mount Historic Train Station. Events begin at 8 a.m. The day includes a bike rodeo, drummers, dancers and keynote speaker Dr. Jacqueline Shaw, a local health educator. Musical acts “We Are One X-perience (Frankie Beverly and Maze Cover Band) and Marshall Charloff & Purple Xperience (Prince Cover Band) will take the stage at 6:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., respectively. Food and commercial vendors will be on site.

A new addition for the Juneteenth Community Empowerment Festival is a gospel music concert will take place from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, June 19, at the Rocky Mount Event Center (285 NE Main St.). The event features Tevis Harris and Favor, as well as Mark Green and Family. The event is headlined by Stellar Award-winning artist John P. Kee at 5 p.m.

The three-day event culminates with a Farm to Fork Spring Harvest event from 3-8 p.m. at Harlem Brew South (515 N. Grace St.), which will provide an open-air farmers market space for vendors to share healthy recipes and beverage options.

For more information, visit <https://downtownrockymount.com>.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. The city was recognized as one of 10 winners nationwide of the 2020-21 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 residents daily.

The city's mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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