

December 20, 2020

Jean Baptiste Point du Sable

Good afternoon Mayor Lightfoot and all who are present here today,



Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. As Justice Hall stated my name is Daphnee Pierre Camilien. I am here today to speak to you about a Jean Baptiste Point du Sable holiday and the importance of representation. As a Chicagoan, woman of color, and a person of Haitian descent, representation matters to me.

Representation matters because it can shape how persons are viewed by society and how they view themselves. As a child attending Chicago schools on the North side, I was never taught about Jean Baptiste Point du Sable. Nor his wife Kitihawa Point du Sable, a native American from the Potawatomi tribe. Oh, what a difference it could make to so many children to know that the founder of this great city was a person who looked like them. It is important for people to learn their history.

Du Sable was a great man. A full city holiday would be one of many ways to represent him. A day in which Chicago celebrates the man, who laid down the foundation for this world city.

Representation Matters as we are in unprecedented times. As we look at the news and see stories of Laquan McDonald, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and recently Chicago's own Anjanette Young. All people who have had their dignity and humanity stripped in life and some in death. Perhaps if people of color were seen as human beings, these things would not happen. I know the answer is not so simple as a Du Sable street, statute, or holiday, but Representation does matters.

When we as people, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian and all people are educated on where we come from and whose shoulders, we stand upon perhaps the humanity and compassion of the people will change.

I will leave you with a quote, **“You can tell a great deal about a country and a people by what they deem important enough to remember.....”** Our goal is for Chicago to remember its founder Jean Baptiste Point du Sable through a holiday, monument, and street because Representation matters. Thank you for granting me this audience.

Next is Tremell Williams the Black Heroes Matter chairperson of the Entertainment and Youth Committee.

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