

Memo

Date: June 18, 2024

To: All Employees

From: Janice Adam, Community Relations Coordinator, Health Equity Division

Subject: Juneteenth



This year marks the second year that Alameda County recognizes Juneteenth. And while we are granted a paid holiday tomorrow, many in the ACBHD community may not know the significance of the day to not only the African American community, but the nation.

On June 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, who had fought for the Union, led a force of soldiers to Galveston, Texas, to deliver a very important message: The war was finally over, the Union had won, and it now had the manpower to enforce the end of slavery. Before the reading of the order, many slave owners in Confederate states simply chose not to tell their slaves about the Emancipation Proclamation signed more than two years earlier and did not honor it. This was allowed because, before winning the war, Union soldiers were largely unable to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation in Southern states.

When Granger arrived in Galveston, there still existed around 250,000 slaves and they were not all freed immediately, or even soon. It was not uncommon for slave owners, unwilling to give up free labor, to refuse to release their slaves until forced to, in person, by a representative of the government. Some would wait until one final harvest was complete, and some would just outright refuse to submit. It was a perilous time for Black people, and some former slaves who were freed or attempted to get free were attacked and killed.

We honor the sacrifice, endurance and resiliency of those for whom freedom was delayed. We strive to ensure that equity leads our work today and throughout the year.

Happy Juneteenth!

Local Juneteenth Resources

- ❖ [City of Hayward Juneteenth Observance](#)
- ❖ [Juneteenth In Oakland](#)
- ❖ [Juneteenth Celebration Hike](#) on June 19 at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont
- ❖ [City of Newark - Juneteenth Celebration on](#) June 19 at the Silliman Center in Newark
- ❖ [OMCA Hosts: Hella Juneteenth "The Cookout"](#) on June 19 at the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)
- ❖ [Juneteenth Storytime with Mrs. Jean Ficklin](#)
- ❖ [Juneteenth: The History of Reconstruction and the Celebration of Emancipation](#)
- ❖ [Movies at the Albany Library – John Lewis: Good Trouble](#)
- ❖ [Celebrating Juneteenth in July: A Sort of Jubilee](#) [Celebrating Juneteenth in July: A Sort of Jubilee](#)