



June 19, 2020

On this day of June 19th in 1865, Union General Gordon Granger announced federal orders freeing all Texas slaves, the last slaves to be freed at the conclusion of the Civil War which officially ended April 9, 1865. This is despite the Emancipation Proclamation being signed September 22, 1862, to take effect January 1, 1863. Thus today marks the day when Black Americans celebrate their independence in the United States. Slavery in the United States officially ended with the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865.

The history of Juneteenth is especially important to be told today as it illustrates the American struggle to recognize Black people as full citizens. A struggle that persists in 2020. Communities Partnering 4 Peace was established to address the trauma our communities have experienced over generations. Trauma caused by systemic and structural racism which leads to economic and housing insecurity, crimes of poverty, violence and lower health outcomes. We will continue our contribution to the healing of the most vulnerable individuals and communities. We will continue our fight to create and maintain an equitable Chicago that is free of violence where all children, youth and families live happy and fulfilled lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vaughn Bryant
Executive Director
Metropolitan Peace Initiatives