

# Happy Juneteenth - A Message from NEWPF



Northeast Women in Public Finance stands in support of the African American Community and would like to acknowledge and celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth is symbolic as it commemorates the official end of slavery after the Civil War. Although President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared that slaves were free on January 1, 1863, many slave owners in dissenting states did not recognize the proclamation. It wasn't until two years later, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865 when Major General Granger traveled to Galveston, Texas to ensure the remaining enslavers comply with the President's directive that Juneteenth became the symbolic date representing African American freedom.

Our country is currently at a turning point. As we grapple with the unjust deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, and countless others; we are sickened, angry and saddened at the senseless acts of inhumanity. We feel compelled to condemn injustice and discrimination recognizing that it is not enough to simply be "not a racist" anymore, allies and advocates must actively be "anti-racist". We must continue to listen and learn from one another in safe and inclusive environments with respect for different backgrounds and perspectives.

As an organization we want to reinforce our message of solidarity with the African American community and reaffirm our commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment. Northeast Women in Public Finance will continue to amplify and elevate people of color. We have always had a focus on diversity demonstrated through ongoing efforts to highlight senior Black women in the industry and also reflected in our Board of Directors, in our leadership, and in support for

Color of Change, one of the nation's largest racial justice organizations. Lastly, we recognize that as industry leaders more will (and should) be demanded of us on an individual level in our communities and on a professional level within our organizations to be actively anti-racist as these issues will continue to be topical and timely every day. NEWPF looks forward to rising to the meet this challenge.

**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” – Martin Luther King Jr.**

Ways to join the conversation:

- [Creating a Culture of Inclusion](#) Webinar - June 24 at 5 pm
  - Donate to or Volunteer with Racial Justice Organizations
  - <https://colorofchange.org/>
  - Sign petitions
  - Call your elected officials
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