

The City of Kettering Board of Community Relations
and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department
Welcome You to

Juneteenth in Kettering: **A Celebration of Shared Freedom**

Monday, June 20, 2022
Polen Farm, Kettering



“No one is free until we are ALL free.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Schedule

Music

Speaking of Peace

Welcome

Jamie Jarosik, *Emcee,*
Parks Board Member

Musical Selections

The Star-Spangled Banner
Lift Every Voice and Sing
Dr. Candace McCoy

Remarks

Peggy Lehner, *Kettering Mayor*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest

Leah White – “The Silencing of Our Voices”

Keynote: *Black in the Promised Land:
Understanding the Local, National and
Historical Importance of Juneteenth*

Faheem Curtis-Khidr, *Professor,*
Sinclair Community College

Closing

Lisa Duvall, *Kettering City Council*





Mayor's Welcome

Thank you for celebrating Juneteenth with us. The Board of Community Relations and our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department have done an exceptional job planning this meaningful gathering. The City of Kettering is proud to celebrate this important national holiday commemorating June 19, 1865, when federal orders freed all previously enslaved people. Juneteenth celebrates an important piece of American history and demonstrates that change can be realized and progress made. And, though we celebrate change today, the scars of deplorable injustices will be ever present. As a community, we will stand and attempt to end racism and everything those scars represent.

Today, we hope this celebration of freedom leaves you with renewed strength and furthers your desire to advocate for others and be a part of this positive impact on our community.

A handwritten signature in dark purple ink that reads "Peggy Lehner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Peggy Lehner
Mayor of Kettering

The City of Kettering Proclamation on Diversity

Kettering is home to people with varying backgrounds, incomes, religions, ethnicities, ages and experiences. It is a community that strives to be a welcoming, safe place where everyone feels valued. The City of Kettering denounces racism in all its forms. Beyond merely acknowledging the history and existence of racism in the United States, we continue to focus on strengthening equity in our local institutions, policies and programs. We affirm a commitment to anti-racism, fairness and justice for all of our citizens, neighbors and visitors.



What is Juneteenth?

While the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, had freed enslaved people in all the Southern secessionist states, change wasn't instant and word traveled slowly. In June 1865, Texas was the last remaining state in the Confederacy to still hold institutional slavery. On June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston to take control of the state and proclaim freedom for the enslaved people of Texas.

In June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday, which President Biden signed into law on June 17, 2021.

Today marks Kettering's first official recognition and community celebration of the Juneteenth holiday. We're so glad you've joined us to celebrate the essential importance of our shared freedom, because as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "No one is free until we are all free."

"Great nations don't ignore their most painful moments. They don't ignore those moments of the past. They embrace them. Great nations don't walk away. We come to terms with the mistakes we made. And in remembering those moments, we begin to heal and grow stronger.

"And that's why we must understand that Juneteenth represents not only the commemoration of the end of slavery in America more than 150 years ago, but the ongoing work to have to bring true equity and racial justice into American society, which we can do.

In short, this day doesn't just celebrate the past; it calls for action today."

Excerpted from President Biden's remarks at the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, June 17, 2021. For the full remarks, visit www.whitehouse.gov.



Kettering City Schools MLK, Jr. Essay Contest

Each year, middle and high school students in Kettering are invited to enter a Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest sponsored by the Board of Community Relations. This year, students were asked to write a 500 word persuasive essay about their views on racism and ideas for making their school, their community, or the world in general a better place for all. The high school winner will read her winning essay.

Faheem Curtis-Khidr

Faheem is a tenured faculty member in Sinclair Community College's history and AFS programs. Faheem's local research project covering West Dayton's now defunct Hog Bottom neighborhood has been recognized and showcased at the REACH Conference, National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center, by the Association for The Study of African American Life and History. Faheem is co-lead of the Ubuntu Study abroad program with Furaha Henry-Jones. The Ubuntu program is the only study abroad program nationally at the community college level with an acute academic focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. As a TedTalk alum, and Parity Inc. Top Ten African American male recipient, black thought, black academia, and black excellence is very much at the forefront of Faheem's socio-academic nexus.



About the Event Organizers

The Board of Community Relations promotes and encourages the creation and maintenance of an inclusive community by fostering equal opportunities for all persons.

The Board is made up of volunteer community members who use their time of service to engage with the community through activities such as movie showings, annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contests and more. For more information visit www.ketteringoh.org/board-of-community-relations



The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department provides quality parks, recreation and cultural arts that make Kettering home. As a department and a city, we strive to provide equitable and meaningful access to all of our services. We work closely with the City of Kettering's Compliance and Inclusion office, the Kettering City Schools, and various community partners to ensure opportunities for all people. For more information, visit www.playkettering.org



To learn more about your own and our nation's history, visit:

National Afro American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce OH

www.ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/national-afro-american-museum-cultural-center



National Afro American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce OH

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati

www.freedomcenter.org



National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati OH

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC

www.nmaahc.si.edu



National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.

Dayton Metro Library's free History & Genealogy research tools

www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/research/databases/history



Dayton Metro Library's free History & Genealogy research tools



Catering: Divine Catering, Dayton, Ohio

Dessert: Got Cake, Kettering, Ohio

Speaking of Peace Members:

G. Scott Jones

Christian Berg

Keigo Hirakwa

Matt Green

Special thank you to those who made this program possible:

Kettering City Council:

Peggy Lehner, *Mayor*

Jacque Fisher, *Vice Mayor, At Large*

Jyl Hall, *At Large*

Lisa Duvall, *District 1*

Bob Scott, *District 2*

Tony Klepacz, *District 3*

Bruce E. Duke, *District 4*

Mark Schwieterman, *City Manager*

Mary Beth O'Dell,

Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

Tom Robillard,

Planning and Development Director

The Juneteenth Planning Committee:

Tawana Jonnes, *Board of Community Relations Chair*

Gwen Owen, *Board of Community Relations Vice Chair*

Lisa Duvall, *Council Liaison to Board of Community Relations*

Angela Rahman, *Staff Liaison to Board of Community Relations*

Shayna McConville, *Division Manager of Cultural Arts, PRCA*

Beth Brubaker, *Facility Coordinator, Polen Farm*

