



Juvenile Justice Commission
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Statement Commemorating Juneteenth and Black Lives Matter

Juneteenth commemorates the day slavery ended in America in 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified six months later.

We should be celebrating the freedom of Black Americans.

Instead, another 155 years of systemic racism have left our Black brothers and sisters, as well as other people of color, devastated by fundamental inequality and inequity in wealth, health, education, and justice. Slavery has left in its wake a long string of our unfulfilled promises of freedom and justice for all.

The Juvenile Justice Commission adopted a resolution in 2019 committing to actively promote initiatives to foster healthier ecosystems for our children and disrupt the prison pipeline – the structures upstream of the dependency and justice systems. We promised to advocate for public and private investment in an organic community restoration and empowerment paradigm.

Recent events make crystal clear that we are not doing enough – as a nation, a community, and a justice commission. We, as the Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County, stand against the racism embedded in our institutions and systems and therefore in ourselves. We recognize that hope is not enough. Together we must and will act to show that BLACK LIVES MATTER.