



Charlotte Family Housing

Working to solve family homelessness

Charlotte Family Housing honors JUNETEENTH

This year we have seen weeks of protests about police brutality, systemic racism, and white supremacy. The harsh reality of the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks has made this holiday one our nation should consider as a federal holiday. These murders have jolted the world into realizing that while slavery may have ended in 1865, its legacy lives. It has the whole world marching and chanting "BLACK LIVES MATTER!"

In my opinion, recognizing Juneteenth is now more critical than ever! Slavery was the second mortal sin of this nation; the first was the genocide of Native Americans. Slavery officially ended after the Civil War, but the pain and scars survived and morphed into new oppressions. The civil rights movement put an end to the Jim Crow laws which embedded racism in our laws. Black and Brown people still experience racism every day at every level of American life. We face violence at the hands of racists; like the murderer who shot 9 men and women praying at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, and murders caused by those who are supposed to protect and serve. Millions of people are marching, advocating, rallying, and organizing to finally put an end to that.

Let us stand together and continue the long march toward justice. Yes, it has taken far too long, but change, at last, feels like it may be at hand.

Thank you,

Pedro J. Perez

Pedro J. Perez

Executive Director

Charlotte Family Housing