

Office of the Mayor
City of Fayetteville
Proclamation



WHEREAS: June 19, 2020, best known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day, marked the 155th anniversary of the arrival of Union Gen. Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas, where two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans learned of the end of enslavement, and

WHEREAS: since its federal enactment in January 2018, Public Law 115-102, through its sunset in June 2021, the 400 Years of African American History Commission (400 YAAHC) will fulfill its charge to educate the public about, recognize, and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619 and to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States, and

WHEREAS: on August 25, 2020, we *Write New History* as we acknowledge another year since the 400th anniversary observance of the first documented arrival of Africans in the American colonies by looking forward to confront differences between the concept of freedom versus the reality of freedom, and

WHEREAS: America must never forget or repeat its vivid and tragic examples of African American history which expose the dehumanizing impact of racial violence, and

WHEREAS: we must collectively strive to close gaps of immeasurable distance between us and affirm the promise of the Declaration of Independence that all people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and hold that the purpose of the American government must be to secure these rights for all, and

WHEREAS: we must reject acts of violence and expand opportunities to understand and learn from our frank and complex conversations, and

WHEREAS: it is through leadership and courage that we each have a responsibility to confront entrenchments which perpetuate injustice or a threat to America's true greatness.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim August 25, 2020 as

"Writing A New History Day"

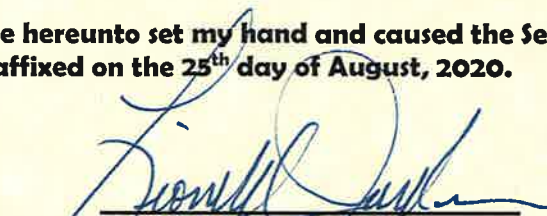
in Fayetteville, Arkansas and encourage all citizens to honor June 19 through August 25, 2020, as a period of reflection, cultural and public education, earnest assessment, planning, and commitment to end systemic racism and all forms of dehumanization which threaten equality and freedom for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 25th day of August, 2020.

Attest:



City Clerk



Mayor

