



Andy Schor, Mayor

June 18, 2020

Greetings from The Lansing Juneteenth Committee and Lansing Mayor Andy Schor:

Although the 2020 Juneteenth Celebration activities including the ceremonial kick-off program, parade, softball game and outdoor music fest are all canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lansing Juneteenth Committee has prepared a Special Tribute in honor of Juneteenth Day!

On Friday, June 19th, local television, radio stations as well as social media platforms will air a special Public Service Announcement (PSA) recognizing our rich history. The PSA will promote our intercultural interaction through education embraced by two important local projects. The first is under the leadership of Artist Julian Vandyke, the creator of the Lansing Juneteenth Committee logo and the Juneteenth Coloring/Activity Story Book. Published in 2004, this Year's re-release is Titled *Juneteenth: Celebrating Freedom*. A special window display exhibit will be featured at the Capital Area District Library (CADL) Downtown beginning Monday, June 15, 2020, showcasing the new storybook and Juneteenth historical art representations.

The second project is the essay/scholarship program, which encourages young people to learn, research and write. This year's contest was interrupted by the pandemic but modified to support graduating seniors who were allowed to submit entries. Lansing's regional area schools and homeschooled students are encouraged to attend Juneteenth Essay Writing Workshops to prepare for their award-winning essay presentations at the annual Essay/Scholarship contest and compete for college scholarships.

The Juneteenth Committee appreciates the support of Mayor Andy Schor and the City of Lansing. Every year, Mayor Schor declares June 19th as "Juneteenth Day" in Lansing. Due to in-person events being canceled, Mayor Schor has joined the committee in filming a PSA and encourages all residents of the City of Lansing to reflect on this important day.

Juneteenth is recognized in 48 States and around the world and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is advocating for Juneteenth to be a National Day of Observance.

The PSA videos can be found at <https://www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org/>.

Sincerely,

The Lansing Juneteenth Committee
Lansing Mayor Andy Schor