

Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce

www.midamericalgbt.com

(816) 474-3558 | info@midamericalgbt.org

PO Box 5961, Kansas City, MO 64171

Executive Director Suzanne Wheeler

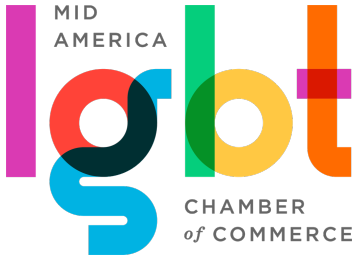
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber recognizes Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day

The Mid-America LGBT Chamber is proud to stand with African Americans across our region and the country in recognition of Juneteenth, the anniversary of the emancipation of the last enslaved people in the United States.

Kansas City, Missouri | Friday, June 19, 2020– Today is recognized as Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, the anniversary of the emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans in the United States on June 19th, 1865. This year, Juneteenth comes at a time when issues of racial disparity and inequality are being protested in the streets and discussed in nearly every home and government office across the country. Current affairs demonstrate that racial injustice is still a pervasive and terrifying issue, especially for African Americans. Communities of color suffer from disparities in healthcare, education, housing, and economic opportunity, but they are also victims of unjustified police violence and disproportional punishment within our justice system.

In our community, we know that people of color face an overwhelming intersection of racism, genderism, and sexism on a daily basis – this especially being true for black transgender women who are being killed at an alarming rate. That’s why it’s more important than ever that we stand up with our members and in our communities to demand policy changes for policing, sentencing, and prison reform, as well as healthcare, housing, education, and economic opportunity.



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As a minority chamber of commerce, we believe in advocating for equity, inclusion, and change through economics. We challenge our members to actively support businesses, candidates, and institutions that are using their influence to make changes to policing policies and criminal justice reform. We challenge our members to look at their places of work and the demographics of their customers to understand how to make your business more accessible to people of color. Most of all, we challenge our members to listen to people of color, trust their experience, and find new ways to use their influence to make our community a more open, diverse, and equitable space for all.

The Chamber is honored to be a trusted minority partner of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City and the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce and proud to use our platform to recognize Juneteenth and advocate for #BlackLivesMatter.

About the Chamber

The Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce is a proud affiliate of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce and exists to advocate, promote and facilitate the success of the LGBT business community and their allies through the guiding principles of equality, inclusion, economics and education. Through membership, networking, and professional development programming, the Chamber seeks to foster a more inclusive and vibrant economy in Kansas City and the surrounding region.