

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## Rep. Ford, Sen. Harmon, Sen. Lightford, Rep. Lilly, Elected Officials, Advocates, and Students to Condemn Hate and Racism at Tuesday Press Conference at Oak Park and River Forest High School

**CHICAGO** – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will join elected officials, local advocates and students Tuesday morning in Oak Park to encourage Governor J.B. Pritzker to lower the state’s flags on Juneteenth, June 19<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of those lost to hate and racism.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. (source: [juneteenth.com](http://juneteenth.com))

“Illinois should lead the nation in condemning hate and racism, and I urge the governor to show that we stand together by lowering flags to half-mast across the state and pausing for a moment of reflection,” said Ford. “Juneteenth serves as a time of reflection and as a time for more action to deliver justice for those who have faced racism throughout their lives. Too many have been lost to hate and brutality, and they cannot be forgotten. Let’s pledge this Juneteenth 2020, in the Land of Lincoln, to take action as a state to fight racism in all its forms.”

For more information, please contact [RepFord@LaShawnFord.com](mailto:RepFord@LaShawnFord.com).

Who: State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, Senate President Don Harmon, Sen. Kimberly Lightford, State Rep. Camille Y. Lilly, Oak Park Clerk Vicki Scaman, Committeewoman Eileen H. Lynch, Rev. Walter Jones, local students  
What: Press Conference urging Gov. Pritzker to lower state’s flags on Juneteenth Day (June 19) in recognition of those lost to hate and racism  
When: Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 10 a.m.  
Where: Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Illinois

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