

The San Diego County Administration Building is lit in honor of Juneteenth Friday, June 19, 2020 in San Diego.  
(Denis Poroy)

## Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when a Union general proclaimed the end of slavery in Galveston, Texas

By KRISTEN TAKETA

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San Diego Unified School District will raise the Black Lives Matter flag at its headquarters on Monday, and it will consider a board resolution Tuesday to annually recognize Juneteenth, the holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in America.

If the school board passes the Juneteenth resolution, which is expected, it will be the first time the district officially recognizes the holiday.

San Diego Unified is one of several public entities to commemorate Juneteenth. Gov. Gavin Newsom has declared Saturday as Juneteenth in California.

On Friday night the San Diego County Administration building and the California Capitol Dome were to be lit in red, black and green — colors that represent Pan-Africa and the African diaspora.

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California has recognized Juneteenth since 2017.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when a Union general came to Galveston, Texas to proclaim the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery. The holiday holds deep significance and is often referred to as the real Independence Day for Black Americans, but it has been relatively little known in the general public and is often missing from traditional history curricula in schools.

Knowledge of the holiday is surging nationwide this year, however, largely thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement that emerged in response to deaths in police custody, most recently the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis.

The board's resolution also will call for teachers "to teach the importance of Juneteenth and current movements such as 'Black Lives Matter' that advance liberation efforts for the Black community with classroom lessons throughout the year."

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