

the Advocate

richmond heights

Scholarship Recipients

The Richmond Heights Community Development Corporation (RHDCDC) was once again privileged to grant scholarships to graduating seniors at a luncheon in June. The RHDCDC scholarship program, established in 2003, awarded four praiseworthy students \$1,000 each to help defray college expenses. In addition to excelling scholastically, all of the awardees volunteered after school in civic, charitable, and leadership activities. The scholarship program is an integral part of the RHDCDC's mission, which includes expanding economic development opportunities, increasing housing opportunities, and promoting comprehensive neighborhood revitalization.



Corrick Chancellor graduated from Cutler Bay Senior High School, where he was actively involved in Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, Project Citizens Environmental Club, Top Teens of America, Speech & Debate Team, National Society of High School Scholars, the Tennis Team, and Kappa League. He will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University to

major in Political Science. Corrick is driven by a deep desire to advocate for underserved communities. His long-term goal is to become an attorney and open a law firm dedicated to championing the rights of those often overlooked, creating lasting change through legal empowerment.



Antonio Siplin graduated from Coral Reef Senior High School where he was engaged in Florida Business Leaders of America, Black Student Union, 5000 Role Models, and Varsity Football. He will attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Antonio

is inspired by the power of innovation to improve lives and solve real-world problems. His vision is to develop groundbreaking technologies and eventually become an entrepreneur who leads a firm focused on sustainability and positive social impact.



Jaylen Lyons is a graduate of Coral Reef Senior High School, where he participated in the Black Student Union and 5000 Role Models. He will attend Miami-Dade College to study Business Administration. Jaylen is passionate about leadership, economic empowerment, and entrepreneurship. His goal is to develop strong managerial skills, build a successful

business, and mentor others in his community to create generational wealth and opportunities for success through small business ownership and innovation.



Amare Sweeting is a graduate of Coral Reef Senior High School, where he was involved in 5000 Role Models and the Ecology Club. He will attend Miami-Dade College to major in Game Development. Amare is fascinated by the intersection of art and technology and hopes to contribute to the evolution of digital

entertainment. His career goal is to work for a leading media or gaming company, where he can design immersive graphics and animations that not only entertain but inspire storytelling and creativity in a new generation of gamers and digital consumers.

Juneteenth Is Ours: A Legacy They Can't Erase

On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed—enslaved Black people were finally informed of their freedom. That day, now known as Juneteenth, marks the delayed but deeply significant declaration of liberation for hundreds of thousands of our ancestors. It is a day rooted in resistance, resilience, and the refusal to be forgotten.

Over time, Juneteenth has evolved into more than a commemoration of delayed freedom. It is a celebration of Black culture, a tribute to our survival, and a recommitment to the ongoing fight for justice. Family cookouts, music, prayer services, and public festivals have transformed June 19th into a living, breathing testament to the strength of our people. In 2021, Juneteenth was finally recognized as a federal holiday—a long overdue step in acknowledging Black history as American history.

But today, Juneteenth takes on an even greater urgency.

Throughout the country, the very rights and recognitions that Juneteenth symbolizes are under attack. In classrooms, Black history is being erased. Across states, diversity, equity and inclusion programs are being dismantled. Executive orders are being signed that aim to strip away civil rights protections, limit reproductive freedom, and suppress the votes of the very communities Juneteenth seeks to uplift. This is not a coincidence—it is a coordinated rollback of progress.

Yet, in the face of these attacks, we will celebrate anyway.

We will celebrate because freedom has never been freely given to us—it's been demanded, defended, and passed down from generation to generation. We will celebrate because Juneteenth isn't just about what happened in 1865—it's about what we're still fighting for in 2025. It's about

the Black students pushing back against banned books.

The community organizers registering voters in states with new restrictions. The families who refuse to let joy be legislated out of existence.

To honor Juneteenth is to honor the truth: that Black freedom is not conditional. It is not up for negotiation. And it does not depend on who holds political power. This recognition isn't just about symbolism. Celebrating Juneteenth is an act of resistance. It's an act of memory. It's an act of refusal. It says: we remember where we come from, and we know exactly where we're going. It says: we will gather, we will teach, we will vote, and we will build the future our ancestors dreamed of—even when the road is steep.

And while we remember the roots of Juneteenth, we also create new traditions that reflect the spirit of unity and joy that define our culture. One such celebration is Dade County's North vs. South Juneteenth Kickball Tournament, taking place Saturday, June 7 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Ives Estates Park. Presented by Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Councilwoman Katrina Wilson, and Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee, this countywide showdown is more than just a game—it's a community-wide celebration. With food trucks, local vendors, and beloved classics like spades, bid whist, and dominoes, the event invites families and neighbors of all ages to come together in friendly competition, cultural pride, and shared purpose. Because every time we gather in joy, we're not just celebrating—we're resisting. We're reclaiming space, honoring legacy, and reminding the world that Black freedom and Black fun go hand in hand.





Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

Knowledge Is Power

Track the Policies Shaping Our Future

Every executive order signed by the president has consequences—and too often, Black communities bear the brunt. From gutting civil rights protections to suppressing the vote, sweeping policy changes are being pushed through with the stroke of a pen—no debate, no checks, no accountability.

That's where the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Executive Order Tracker comes in.

This powerful, easy-to-use tool breaks down each executive action and analyzes its real-time impact on Black America—across education, healthcare, criminal justice, economic opportunity, and civil rights. It cuts through legal jargon and exposes exactly how our lives, our families, and our futures are being affected.

Want to know how executive orders are targeting diversity, equity and inclusion programs? It's in the tracker. Curious about changes to student loan forgiveness, voting access, or reproductive rights? It's in the tracker. And it's updated regularly, giving you a front-row seat to the policies shaping your future.

We can't fight what we don't see coming.

Now more than ever, we need to stay informed, organize, and speak out. Visit cbcfinc.org and click Center for Policy Analysis and Research in the drop down menu to explore the Executive Order Tracker. Share it with your family. Use it in your classrooms. Discuss it in your group chats and at your churches.

Because power is never given—it's protected.



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QUICK TIPS TO

Get Ready for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season starts June 1, and the forecast is serious: up to 18 named storms, with as many as five major hurricanes. For South Dade residents, the threat is real. Hurricane Andrew taught us how quickly everything can change.

Now's the time to prepare. Make sure your emergency kit includes water, nonperishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, a radio, and copies of important documents. Trim trees near your home. Fill your gas tanks, charge backup batteries, and withdraw cash in case of power outages. Photograph valuables for insurance claims. Know

your evacuation zone, and make a plan for pets and elderly relatives.

Stay informed. The Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management provides critical hurricane preparedness resources, including evacuation routes, storm surge planning zones, and safety tips. They also offer services like the Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) for residents who may need help during a storm. Sign up for emergency alerts and download the Ready Miami-Dade Hurricane App at miamidadegov to receive real-time updates and storm information directly to your phone.

Emergency Kit at a Glance



nonperishable food



batteries



medications



water



flashlights



important documents



radio