

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia



**Commission on the DC Emancipation Day Meeting**

Date: Thursday, February 09, 2023 - 6:04PM -

7:03PM

Platform: Web Ex –

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m22101e62f22581d8e4bc9e4a4b29559c>

Facilitator/ Lead: Secretary of State Kimberly Bassett

In Attendance: Commissioner Mary Ivey, Commissioner Howard Marks, Commissioner Ayanna Hawkins, Commissioner Malissa Freese, Commissioner Helga Baskett-Tippett, Commissioner Frank Smith; Secretary of State Kimberly Bassett, Special Assistant/Public Information Officer Joshua Collins

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Call to Order
  - Secretary Bassett called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM
2. Determination of Quorum
  - Commissioners Ivey, Hawkins, Marks, Baskett-Tippett, Smith, and Freese attended.
  - Secretary of State Kimberly Bassett and Special Assistant Joshua Collins attended for the Office of the Secretary.
  - Quorum was met with six of nine Commissioners in attendance, however no vote was taken.
3. 2023 Emancipation Day Activities Update
  - Secretary Bassett began the meeting by providing an update on plans for this year's Emancipation Day activities. She informed the Commissioners that she

attended a budget meeting, as well as let the Commissioners know that there will be a need for volunteers/participants for the Emancipation Day parade.

- Secretary Bassett stated that she was still waiting for the final word on the Emancipation breakfast, but will have an update in the coming days.
- She mentioned that Dr. Lopez Matthews, Public Records Administrator and Chief Archivist, is researching Emancipation subject areas that will be included in the planning of activities.
- Secretary Bassett met with the National Bell Festival to discuss a ringing of the bells across the city for the holiday. After her remarks, she opened the floor for discussion from the Commissioners..

#### 4. Open Discussion/Questions and Concerns

- Commissioner Marks stated that Rabbi Alexander accepted the invitation to provide the prayer at the Democracy Breakfast.
- Commissioner Hawkins mentioned the Girls Scouts at Shiloh Baptist Church were interested in participating in the parade.
- Commissioner Ivey mentioned a potential group outing to St. Augustine, FL to view a historic slave port. She stated that this could be an activity for next year.
- Commissioner Hawkins mentioned utilizing Emancipation Day to bridge events for the Juneteenth commission, potentially collaborating with Commissioner Smith on his new museum.
- Commissioner Marks stated that he thinks Emancipation Day activities should be extended to all schools across the city, not just public schools.
- Commissioner Hawkins mentioned including Councilmember Orange; potentially making him honorary Chairman of the parade. She also mentioned it could help elevate the profile of the event.
- Commissioner Smith mentioned that the Afro American Civil War Museum usually invites people to participate in an event called the Reading of the Names ceremony where people come together and read the names of the slaves that became free on DC Emancipation Day. He also mentioned that he wanted to make it a citywide activity and shared that the names would be available on the African American Civil War website.
- Commissioner Basket-Tippett proposed creating a trivia quiz for residents. She shared that the Commission could give out a prize for the most correct answers.
- Commissioner Smith mentioned doing a joint event for all three commissions, MLK, Emancipation, and Juneteenth.
- Commissioner Smith mentioned that part of the work of the museum is the

Passport to Freedom program and suggested that there is a way to Arc all the programming from Emancipation as well as Juneteenth and MLK.

- Commissioner Smith mentioned creating a schedule for Emancipation Day so that the Commission can coordinate events.
- Commissioner Marks mentioned including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to reach out to black politicians that could also help drive turnout for the events.
- Commissioner Smith suggested outreach to friends and family that live outside the District to garner additional support for statehood.
- Next steps will be for the Commission to provide a list of activities for Emancipation Wknd; The Office of the Secretary will confirm the dates for the breakfast

5. Next Meeting Date: February 23, 2023

6. Adjournment