



District of Columbia Emancipation Day Commemoration Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:26 PM

Platform: WebEx

In Attendance: Howard Marks, Sabrina Thomas, Mary Ivey, Ayanna Hawkins, Malissa Freese, William Branch

Notes:

1. Commissioner Freese expressed that she wished the Commission had t-shirts, posters, and hashtags to use surrounding DC Emancipation Day.
2. The Commission inquired if the Potomac River could be used a backdrop during any of the Emancipation Day events.
3. Commissioner Thomas wishes to start DC Emancipation Day programming with an event about Frederick Douglass.
4. Commissioner Marks mentioned Dr. Kent, the Lincoln scholar previously discussed, and the Commission would like to see a stand-alone event focusing on Abraham Lincoln and his relationship with Frederick Douglass.
5. Commissioner Hawkins would like to see the Commission engage local churches, such as Shilo Baptist Church (founded in 1853).
6. The Commission discussed planning a Civil War Reenactment event as part of DC Emancipation Day programming.
7. The Secretary suggested that for the 160th anniversary of DC Emancipation Day, each event leading up to Emancipation Day, a Commissioner should be present to introduce the panel. Subsequently, the Secretary requested that each Commissioner send their bio, headshot, and which event they would like to host via email.