

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



**DC Emancipation Day Commemoration Commission Meeting**

**Date:** March 9, 2023

**Time:** 6:37 PM– 7:05 PM

**Platform:** Web Ex -

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

**Facilitator:** Joshua Collins

**In Attendance:** Joshua Collins, Public Information Officer & Special Assistant to Kimberly A. Bassett, Secretary of State

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Mary Ivey, Malissa Freese, Howard Marks, Ayanna Hawkins,

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome/Call to Order
  - Joshua Collins called the meeting to order officially at 6:37 PM.
2. Determination of Quorum
  - Commissioners Ivey, Freese, Marks and Hawkins attended. With only 4 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, quorum was not met. However, there were no items on the agenda that required voting.
3. Overview of 2023 DC Emancipation Day Events
  - Joshua Collins provided a brief overview of the minutes from the last meeting. He stated that the Emancipation Breakfast would be a luncheon this year. The luncheon is scheduled from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM on April 14, 2023, at the Washington Convention Center. He shared with the commissioners that the keynote speaker was still being confirmed.

- Joshua Collins also shared that Commissioner Frank Smith would not be joining the call, however the information about the Reading of the Names event would be on the website next week.

a. <https://www.afroamcivilwar.org/>

- Commissioner Mark stated that since the Emancipation Breakfast had been changed to a luncheon that he would reach out to Rabbi Alexander and confirm his availability.

- Joshua Collins then introduced Dr. Lopez Matthews, State Archivist and Public Records Administrator for the District of Columbia. Dr. Lopez joined the call and shared that there are a total of three confirmed events that his office is leading for Emancipation Day. All events will be virtual:

1. Black Resistance in DC by Professor Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, April 3, 2023 – 6:30 PM EST

a. <http://opr.dc.gov/resistancetoday>

2. DC's Black Power in the 1970s: A Conversation with Niani Kilkenny

a. <http://opr.dc.gov/bpdc>

3. Black Resistance in the Civil War Era (Lecture by Roger Davidson)

a. <http://opr.dc.gov/civilwar>

- After Dr. Matthew's presentation, Joshua Collins opened the floor up for discussion and feedback from the Commissioners.

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

- Commissioner Mark mentioned that there was a DC State Senator that was a champion for DC Emancipation and we should highlight his work, even if not directly during the luncheon or the weekend of events.
- Commissioner Hawkins asked Dr. Lopez about the connection between the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hip Hop program and DC Emancipation. Especially with Go-Go being acknowledged as the official music of DC.
- Joshua Collins shared that if any of the commissioners knew of youth or adults interested in volunteering for the Emancipation Day Parade to please share and we would make sure to connect them with the MOCA offices who are leading the planning for the parade.

5. Next Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

6. Adjournment