



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY COMMISSION**

John A Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 427
Conference Call #: 1-203-480-8311
Participant Code: 3043011
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
6:00PM - 7:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Secretary Kimberly Bassett.
2. **Roll call:** Completed at 6:05pm. A quorum was met to conduct the meeting.
3. **Commissioner attendees:**
 - a) In person: Lee Brian Reba.
 - b) Via phone: Monica Palacios, Thomas Bowen, Charles Hicks, Thennie Freeman, Felicia Davis Hipkins, Carlos Davis, Omar Umah, and Steve Johnson (on behalf of Director Angie Gates).
4. **OS Staff:**
 - a) Secretary Kimberly A. Bassett, and Tyler Brown, Public Information Officer.
5. **OS Update. . . .6:09 PM**
 - a) Secretary Bassett moved to update Commissioners on the activities of the OS between the Commission's last June 17, 2019 meeting and December 17, 2019. Secretary Bassett detailed the Ethiopian Delegation mission and Beijing Day - DC 35th Anniversary. 6:10 PM

Community Projects and Events

6. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2020 Event. . . .6:11 PM**
 - a) Secretary Bassett reviewed this proposed event with Mayor Muriel Bowser and MMB declined to produce a separate MLK Day 2020 event. The Commission will proceed with planning a symbolic event as discussed in the proceeding notes.
7. **2020 MLK Day Parade and DC Government Float. . . . 6:14 PM**
 - a) The MLK Day Parade has become a signature Washington, DC event. Secretary Bassett moved to encourage the Commission to facilitate creation of a unique float in the parade. Commissioner Charles Hicks moved to recommend Peg Anderson as a good point of contact to secure a float. Point of contact was noted by OS staff.

8. **“Reading MLK” Project. . . .6:16 PM**
 - a) Commissioner Charles Hicks moved to explain his “Reading MLK project in detail.
 - b) Secretary Kimberly Bassett moved to request locations and specific times from Commissioner Hicks to confirm the “Reading MLK” project. Commissioner Hicks will return both in follow up communications.

Education Projects and Events

9. **MLK, Jr. Global Youth Leadership Conference. . . .6:18 - 6:20 PM**
 - a) Secretary Bassett moved to introduce Commissioner Lee Brian Reba. Reba details the upcoming 3-day conference highlighting MLK’s life and work. UDC is partnered with the Memorial Foundation for this event, as an in-kind venue.
10. **Institute of Politics Policy and History, “The Power of the March, MLK, and Activism”6:21 PM**
 - a) Secretary Bassett moved to describe the Institute of Politics, Policy, and History. Lee Brian Reba then moves to complete Secretary Bassett’s description. The IPPH is hosting “*The Power of the March, MLK, and Activism,*” a panel discussion on Dr. King’s philosophy and legacy.
11. **New Business. . . .6:22 PM**
 - a) **City-wide Bell Ringing Ceremony:** In partnership with the Mayor’s Office on Religious Affairs, Commissioners will be involved in coordinating an interfaith church bell ringing on MLK Day across Washington, DC. Commissioner Thomas Bowen moved to discuss options for venues. Commissioner Bowen suggests interfaith organizations that do not have a bell can play the organ, have a choir sing, and that citizens could participate by honking their car horns. Commissioner Charles Hicks moved to encourage purchasing promotional ads in the Washington Informer and the Afro newspapers.
12. **Open Discussion. . . .6:23 PM – 6:37 PM**
 - a) Secretary Bassett moved to open the floor for Commission to share ideas around MLK events that can be coordinated in the remaining 30 days.
 - b) Commissioner Omar Umah moved to discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic march down Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue in Ward 7. Commissioner Umah requested that the march be re-imagined and modernized to commemorate the event for District residents.
 - c) Commissioner Thennie Freeman moved to support Commissioner Umah’s suggestion. Commissioner Freeman described her youth connection, and that she will organize youth to participate in a ward 7 MLK march and essay contest. Commissioner Freeman provided her phone number for Commissioner Umah to contact her.
 - d) Commissioner Thomas Bowen moved to suggest engaging the Progressive National Baptist Convention to assist in producing and coordinating the ward

7 youth march event. Commissioner Brenda Walker moved to support the ward 7 youth march and volunteered to help organize the event.

- e) Commissioner Monica Palacios moved to volunteer to support and participate in all MLK Day 2020 Commission sanctioned events.
- f) Commissioner Carlos Davis moved to volunteer for UDC Global Youth Leadership Summit.
- g) Commissioner Umah moved to volunteer the rooftop events space at Garfield Terrace for any MLK Day 2020 Commission events.

13. Upcoming Events. . . . 6:38 PM

- a) **36th Annual MLK JR. Memorial Breakfast, Friday, January 17, 2020, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM, Washington Marriot at Metro Center: 775 12th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20005.**
- b) Secretary Bassett moved to share details, date, time, and location for the upcoming annual MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast. OS will reserve a table at the event for Commissioners. Commissioners are invited to the event.

14. Next Meeting Date. . . . 6:40 PM

- a) **To be determined based on schedule availability** meeting will be conducted via conference call.

15. Motion to Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM by Secretary Kimberly A. Bassett.