

Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia



Stephanie D. Scott, Ph.D.  
Secretary of the District of Columbia

July 31, 2008

Vincent C. Gray, Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Gray,

Attached please find my report on expenses for the District's celebrations of DC Emancipation Day, 2008. This report is required by D.C. Official Code Title 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter VI, § 1-183(c).

The report is a summary explanation of all activities and expenditures (\$1,900) for the week's worth of activities, so far this fiscal year.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie D. Scott".

Stephanie D. Scott

cc: Mayor Adrian M. Fenty  
All Councilmembers  
Office of Financial Resource Management

## District of Columbia Emancipation Day - April 16, 2008 Report of the Secretary of the District of Columbia

D.C. Official Code Title 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter VI, § 1-183(c) states:

By August 1st of each year, the Secretary of the District of Columbia shall submit a report to the Council that shall include a specific accounting of the expenditure of money in the Fund and any remaining balance. The report shall include:

- (1) The name of any donors or list of anonymous contributions;
- (2) The amount of each contribution;
- (3) A description of any donated property;
- (4) A description of the use of monies for presenting the Emancipation Day Parade; and
- (5) Costs of parade-related programs, activities, and functions for which the money have been expended.

Further, D.C. Official Code Title 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter VI, § 1-183(a) states:

For the purposes of this subchapter, the term:

- (1) "Emancipation Day Parade" means the parade, and associated activities, held to celebrate and commemorate District of Columbia Emancipation Day.

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During the first quarter of FY 2008, the Office of the Secretary began planning for DC Emancipation Day 2008. Our two main focuses were to be educating DC residents of all ages about our unique history, and mounting a second annual Voting Rights March to Capitol Hill.

My three-fold strategy for the educational component of DC Emancipation Day is:

- to create lasting materials that will be useful to a range of users, such as schools, community centers, churches, senior centers, libraries, and other groups and individuals;
- to develop partnerships with public and private agencies to encourage DC Emancipation Day celebrations that are developed, organized, and presented by community-based organizations across the District, so each year increasing numbers of residents feel ownership of the celebrations; and
- to become an information clearinghouse for community-based events taking place throughout the District during the week leading up to DC Emancipation Day.

In 2008, educational activities included the week-long lecture series, with several events organized by the Office of the Secretary, and several events organized by partners and members of the DC Emancipation Day Commission, such as the Historical Society of

Washington; significant “behind-the-scenes” work on a documentary, *Enslavement to Emancipation*, that we are making in partnership with the Office of Cable Television; and preliminary plans to create a brochure for public distribution.

The 2008 Voting Rights March had been in the planning stages for several months before it was cancelled. I recommended cancellation of the Voting Rights March due to concerns about the availability of District resources, public interest, and public safety, which arose once we learned that Pope Benedict XVI’s first visit to the United States was to include a visit to the White House and a public parade on April 16 – DC Emancipation Day. Although the Metropolitan Police Department indicated that they were able to manage two simultaneous public “parades,” I recommended canceling the Voting Rights March because police resources were not the only area of concern.

- As a participant in the planning meetings for the Pope’s visit, I was well aware of the concerns relating to large numbers of buses bringing tourists to see the Pope, gridlock, and the need to plan for medical emergencies should some catastrophe occur.
- I also was concerned that many of those who might be interested in joining the DC Emancipation Day Voting Rights March would be drawn to the papal parade, and choose to attend that parade instead of ours.
- Last, international protocol, for which my office is also responsible on behalf of the District, holds that it would be inappropriate for the host government of a visiting head of state to sponsor a protest march at the same time as a parade is being held for the visiting head of state.

Because the cancellation was decided at such a late date, we did have expenditures in advance, which are detailed below.

## DONATIONS

We received no donations for celebrations of Emancipation Day 2008, nor were any solicited.

## EXPENSES

### Emancipation Week Lecture Series:

Twelve events were held on six of the eight days leading up to DC Emancipation Day. There were no expenses for the lecture series in 2008. In prior years, we gave honoraria to speakers, poets and musicians, and venues for the use of their space. In 2008, to encourage community ownership of Emancipation Day, honoraria were not paid. The events were:

- **Ecumenical Forum: Emancipation and Civil Rights: A Movement for Freedom** at the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, 1701 15th Street, NW on April 8.
- **“Slavery and the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act”** at the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave., NW on April 9.
- **Tribute to A. Philip Randolph and Congressman John Lewis** hosted by the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity at the Rayburn House Office Building on April 10.
- **Friends of DC Emancipation Day’s Wreath Laying Ceremony** at Lincoln Park, East Capitol Street NE on April 12.
- **Film: *Congressman Robert Smalls: A Patriot’s Journey from Slavery to Capitol Hill*** at the Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street NW on April 14.
- **Brentwood Community Emancipation Day Celebration** hosted by Giant Food at Brentwood Shopping Center on April 12.
- **“Celebrating the Struggle for Emancipation and Civil Rights through Poetry & Prose”** at Busboys and Poets, 1390 V Street NW on April 12.
- **“Washingtonians and the Riot of 1968”** hosted by the Humanities Council of Washington, DC at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 901 G Street NW on April 14.
- **“Conversation on Great Streets with Bomani Armah, Professor Griff, and Anthony ‘A-tone’ Muhammad”** at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 901 G Street NW on April 14.
- **DC Emancipation Day Parade/March”** hosted by the African American Holiday Association, The American Friends Service Committee, DC Black History Celebration Committee, Friends of DC Emancipation Day, and Stand Up! for Democracy in DC Coalition (Free DC) at Historic Franklin Square, between 13th and 14th and I Streets, NW on April 16.
- **“Musical Performance: Freedom Blues”** at the Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street NW on April 16.
- **Re-enactment of Frederick Douglass’ 1883 DC Emancipation Speech** at the Historical Society of Washington, 801 K Street NW on April 16.

### **Emancipation Day Parade / Voting Rights March:**

In 2008 we have spent \$1,900 to advertise the anticipated Voting Rights March in the *Washington Informer’s* Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday special edition. The advertisement is appended to this report. We also applied for and received a permit from the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts to hang the banner advertising the Voting Rights March, which we had made in 2007, but there was no cost for the permit.

### **Enslavement to Emancipation Documentary:**

Before the close of fiscal year 2008, we expect to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer funds from the Emancipation Day Fund to the Office of Cable Television to cover the costs of completing the production of the documentary. If the MOU is signed this fiscal year, I will send an addendum to this report.

## SUMMARY

The total spent for the week of DC Emancipation Day was \$1,900. This leaves a remainder of \$98,100 that was budgeted for 2008 but not spent.

Because the legislation that established DC Emancipation Day specifically forbids any remaining funds from returning to the General Fund, and permits the funds to be spent only for DC Emancipation Day activities, I anticipate that this total will be moved to the Emancipation Day Activities program of the Office of the Secretary budget and be available for use going forward.

## Mayor's Proclamation

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ADRIAN M. FENTY, MAYOR

# Proclamation



## DC EMANCIPATION DAY

April 16, 2008

**WHEREAS**, April 16 is an official holiday in the District of Columbia, commemorating the day in 1862 on which President Abraham Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, to free the 3,100 enslaved people in Washington, DC; and

**WHEREAS**, the observation of DC Emancipation Day was revived by DC Reading Is Fundamental in 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DC Emancipation Day, and the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revival of the commemoration ceremonies; and

**WHEREAS**, despite having been the "first freed" by the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, their descendants and all residents of Washington, DC remain the only taxpaying citizens of the United States who are denied full representation in the U.S. Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to educating all DC residents about our unique history, and continuing to fight for full emancipation in the House and Senate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, do hereby call upon all the residents of this great city to participate in the many events marking **DC EMANCIPATION DAY**.



Advertisement in Washington Informer

“The Emancipation Proclamation was the offspring of the Declaration of Independence. It was a constructive use of the force of law to uproot a social order which sought to separate liberty from a segment of humanity.”

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Emancipation Proclamation Centennial Address  
New York City, September 12, 1962

**Honor Dr. King’s Legacy.  
Demand the Vote.**

**March for Full Congressional Voting  
Rights on DC Emancipation Day.**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

**Freedom Plaza. 2:30 p.m.**

[www.dc.gov/emancipationday](http://www.dc.gov/emancipationday) 202-727-6306



EMANCIPATION

APRIL 16, 1862

**Banner Permit**



Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs  
Permit Center

941 North Capitol St. NE Room 2100  
Washington DC 20002

**B**

Tel:(202) 442 4589

**Building Permit**

THIS PERMIT IS VALID ONLY FOR THE PREMISES  
OF THE PROJECT ADDRESS

PERMIT NO. 115400

DATE: 2/5/2008

ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 1592 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW		S S L: SQ: 255 WARD: 2	SX: ZONE GOV	LOT: 000
DESCRIPTION OF WORK: TO INSTALL 8' X 11' BANNER ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR FROM 3/31/2008 TO 4/17/2008. BANNER ADVERTISES A VOTING RIGHTS MARCH ON EMANCIPATION DAY ON APRIL 16TH.				
PERMIT TYPE: Sign	PLANS (Y/N): Y	EXISTING USE: Office	PROPOSED USE: Office	
PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED TO OWNER: DC GOVERNMENT			PERMIT FEE: \$0.00	
AGENT NAME: ABBY FRANKSON 202-727-8624				
CONDITIONS / RESTRICTIONS: TEMPORARY SIGN BANNER - REMOVE BY 4/17/08				
TO REPORT WASTE, FRAUD OR ABUSE BY ANY DC GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, CALL THE DC INSPECTOR GENERAL AT 1-800-521-1839.				
Acting DIRECTOR:  Linda K. Arpa	PERMIT CLERK: 		EXPIRATION DATE: 2/4/2009	

CONDITIONS: As a condition precedent to the issuance of this permit, the owner agrees to conform with all conditions set forth herein and to perform the work authorized hereby in accordance with the approved application and plans on file with the District Government and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia has the right to enter upon the property and to inspect all the work authorized by this permit and to require any change in construction which may be necessary to ensure compliance with the permit and with all the applicable regulations of the District of Columbia. Work authorized under this Permit must start within one (1) year of the date appearing on this permit or this permit is automatically void. If work is not started, any application for gas, hot water, and cold water must be made within six months of the date appearing on this permit.

THIS PERMIT MUST ALWAYS BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT ADDRESS OF WORK UNTIL WORK IS COMPLETED.

NOTIFY THE BUILDING INSPECTOR THE DAY THE WORK STARTS. PHONE (202) 442-4237 AT 401 NORTH CAPITOL ST NE WASHINGTON DC 20002

Separate permits are required for Plumbing, Refrigeration, Gas Fitting, and Electrical Work

