

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



DC Emancipation Day Commemoration Commission Meeting

Date: February 23, 2023

Time: 6:37 PM–7:04 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, and Gina Henderson, Editor, OS Ceremonial Services Unit

Commissioners in Attendance: Frank Smith, Kimberley Grimes, Mary Ivey, Malissa Freese, Helga Baskett-Tippett

AGENDA:

1. Welcome/Call to Order

- Joshua Collins called the meeting to order officially at 6:37 PM.

2. Determination of Quorum

- Commissioners Smith, Grimes, Ivey, Freese, and Baskett-Tippett attended.
- Public Information Officer Joshua Collins and Editor Gina Henderson attended for the Office of the Secretary.
- Quorum was met with five of nine Commissioners in attendance. However, no subject matter was covered during the meeting that required a vote.

3. Overview of 2023 DC Emancipation Day Events

- Joshua Collins provided an update on the list of events sponsored by the Office of the Secretary.
- Joshua Collins stated that this year OS will coordinate the Democracy Champions Emancipation Day Luncheon from 12 PM-2 PM on April 14, 2023, at the Washington Convention Center. The keynote speaker is still being confirmed.
- Joshua Collins also provided that this year OS will sponsor five Emancipation Day events; all will be organized and facilitated by Dr. Lopez Matthews, Jr., State Archivist and Public Records Administrator for the District of Columbia. Among the events scheduled so far:
 1. Black Resistance in DC by Professor Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, April 4, 2023 – 6:30 PM EST on WebEx
 2. A Conversation on Black Music – details TBD
 3. Black Resistance in the 70s –details TBD
 4. DC Statehood – details TBD
 5. Woodlawn Cemetery—details TBD

4. Open Discussion/Questions and Concerns

- Commissioner Frank Smith of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum discussed the Reading of the Names Activity, which highlights the names of enslaved people that became free on DC Emancipation Day. He plans for this event to take place simultaneously across the city and more information will be posted on their website.
 - <https://www.afroamcivilwar.org/>
- Commissioner Smith shared that names will be read at about a dozen schools in the District in an effort to turn this practice into a real educational program.
- Commissioner Smith mentioned that Franklin School is independently planning an Emancipation Day event.
 - <https://planetwordmuseum.org/franklin-school/>
- Commissioner Baskett-Tippett shared that she has names of churches that she thinks would be interested in participating in the Reading of the Names.
- Next steps will be for Commissioner Smith to provide the names of the schools that he is currently working with on the Reading of the Names activity.

- Commissioner Mary Ivey stated that the young people Commissioner Smith is working with, might also be interested in volunteering for the Emancipation Day Parade.

5. Next Meeting Date: March 09, 2023

6. Adjournment