

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2015-126
May 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Establishment – District of Columbia Emancipation and Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Close of the American Civil War Commemorative Commission

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the District of Columbia by section 422(2) and (11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(2), (11) (2014 Repl.), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. ESTABLISHMENT

There is established a District of Columbia Emancipation and Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Close of the American Civil War Commemorative Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “**Commission**”) in the Executive Branch of the Government of the District of Columbia.

II. PURPOSE

The Commission shall advise the Mayor on (i) programs, projects, activities, and forums to celebrate and commemorate April 16th as a public legal holiday in District of Columbia that recognizes the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act (“**Act**”), approved by Congress and signed by President Abraham Lincoln on April 16, 1862 to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and (ii) strategies to garner support, local participation and establish the District’s response to the Sesquicentennial Close of the end of the American Civil War which saved the Nation and set all enslaved Americans “Forever Free”.

III. FUNCTIONS

The Commission shall:

- A. Commemorate the emancipation of more than 3,100 formerly enslaved persons in the District of Columbia as the first freed, through legislation passed by the Thirty-Seventh Congress that approved the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which abolished slavery in the District of Columbia on April 16, 1862;

- B. Develop and implement plans, programs, projects, and activities to celebrate the commemorative history, culture, heritage, customs, and traditions that highlight the struggle to overcome the institution of slavery, and to profile the African-American experience in the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality;
- C. Commemorate historical events in the District of Columbia that highlight the Sesquicentennial celebration of the close of the American Civil War;
- D. Coordinate and plan major events leading up to the Grand Review on May 17, 2015. These events will be educational, and are designed to honor those who gave their last full measure for what this nation is and can be;
- E. Undertake other duties as are assigned by the Mayor; and,
- F. Submit a report to the Mayor through the Secretary of the District of Columbia on the events, activities, and accomplishments of the Commission.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

- A. The Commission shall have a maximum of twenty-five (25) members. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall serve until December 31, 2015.
- B. Members of the Commission shall be residents of the District, or shall have some resident business, educational, social or cultural nexus to the District.

VI. COMPENSATION

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

VII. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Commission may establish subcommittees as needed. Subcommittees may include individuals who are not members of the Commission, provided that each subcommittee is chaired by a member of the Commission.
- B. Meetings of the Commission shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- C. The Commission may establish its own by-laws and rules of procedure, subject to the approval of the Chairperson, or her designee.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia and the Office of Public Records shall provide administrative support for the Commission.

- B. Each department, agency, instrumentality, or independent agency of the District shall cooperate with the Commission and provide any information, in a timely manner, which the Commission requests to carry out the provisions of this Order.

IX. SUNSET

The Commission shall sunset on December 31, 2015.

X. RESCISSIONS

This Order shall supersede any previous Mayor's Order.

XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately.


MURIEL E. BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST:


LAUREN C. VAUGHAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA