

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2004-35
March 1, 2004

SUBJECT: Establishment – District of Columbia Emancipation Commemoration
Commission

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia by section 422(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, as amended, Pub. L. No. 93-198, 87 Stat. 790, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(2) (2001), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby established in the Executive Branch of the Government of the District of Columbia the Emancipation Commemoration Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

II. PURPOSE

The Commission shall advise the Mayor and the Council on activities by the District of Columbia to recognize the Compensated Emancipation Act ("Act"), approved by Congress on April 16, 1862 which abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, and is recognized by statute as a private legal holiday.

III. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Commission shall include:

- a. Planning, and assisting the Mayor and the Council regarding implementation of programs, projects, and activities to highlight and profile the history, culture, heritage, customs, and traditions of the African-American experience in overcoming the legacy of slavery after the approval of the Compensated Emancipation Act.
- b. Commemorating the emancipation of former slaves in the District of Columbia, in particular, as the first freed in the national struggle against slavery.
- c. Working with local, and community, museums, historical, educational and cultural organizations as well as citizens to ensure that each ward of the District is represented in all phases of the Commission's activities to commemorate emancipation in the District.

- d. Recommending to the Mayor and the Council proposals for appropriate collaboration between the District government and outside organizations and individuals that commemorate and celebrate emancipation in the District.
- e. Recommending to the Mayor and the Council educational materials on the emancipation of slavery in the District of Columbia to be disseminated in schools and other public buildings and assisting in the preparation of such materials.
- f. Collaborating during the week of April 16, 2004, with schools, colleges, universities, religious and faith-based communities, historical, and cultural groups to highlight and commemorate emancipation in the District.
- g. Recommending to the Mayor and Council criteria for collecting and selecting display items for exhibiting in the John A. Wilson Building that profile the history of compensated emancipation in the District.
- h. Making recommendations on ceremonies and activities and assisting in the implementation of those ceremonies and activities relating to hosting a parade on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. that will include activities on Freedom Plaza to celebrate compensated emancipation in the District.
- i. Reporting in writing to the Mayor, through the Secretary of the District of Columbia, summarizing its events, accomplishments, general activities, and recommendations, not later than December 31st each year.

IV. COMPOSITION

- a. The Commission shall be comprised of twenty-one (21) voting members, appointed by the Mayor.
- b. The voting members appointed to the Commission shall include representation from the following communities:
 - 1. Business, labor and economic development;
 - 2. Professional historians;
 - 3. Educational;
 - 4. Cultural and heritage organizations;
 - 5. Religious and faith-based;
 - 6. Non-for-profit institutions and organizations; and

7. General public.
- c. Members of the Commission shall be residents of the District, or shall have some resident business, educational, social, or cultural nexus to the District.
- d. Non-District residents shall not constitute more than five (5) members of the Commission.
- e. The Secretary of the District of Columbia, or designee, shall serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting, designee of the Mayor on the Commission.

V. TERMS

- a. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall serve until December 31, 2005.
- b. The Chairperson may excuse a member for a meeting for an emergency reason. Any member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings shall be deemed to be removed from the Commission, and a vacancy created. Such vacancies shall be filled by the Mayor as outlined above.

VI. COMPENSATION

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, except that a member may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the authorized execution of official Commission duties, if approved in advance by the Secretary of the District of Columbia, or designee, and sufficient funds are available.

VII. ORGANIZATION

- a. The Mayor shall appoint a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among the appointed voting members of the Commission. The Chairperson shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Mayor.
- b. The Commission may elect such other officers as may be required, its members deem appropriate.
- c. 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.
- d. The Commission may establish its own bylaws and rules of procedure, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the District of Columbia, or designee.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

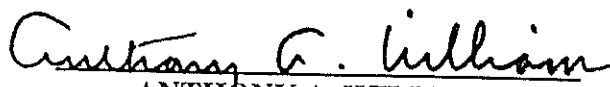
The Office of the Secretary shall provide administrative and support for the Commission.

IX. SUNSET

The Commission shall sunset on December 31, 2005.

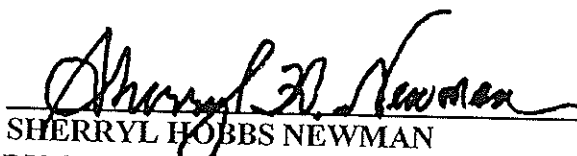
X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately.



ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS
MAYOR

ATTEST:


SHERRYL HOBBS NEWMAN

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA