



**Third Quarterly Report to the Virginia General Assembly
on the
Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument
Pursuant to Appropriation Act--Item C-1.30 C. (Special Session 1, 2012)**

**Submitted by the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
and the
Department of General Services**

November 12, 2013

Summary

The Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument Work Group of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission has met regularly since its organizational meeting on December 10, 2012, to plan and commence the feasibility study and fundraising required for the construction of a permanent monument celebrating the emancipation of slaves and freedom in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Funds have been appropriated for this purpose. The Department of General Services is required to provide technical assistance. The MLK Commission submitted its first quarterly report to the General Assembly on the progress made on site selection, project design, projected costs, fund raising, and project finances in January 2013. The second quarterly report was completed on May 6, 2013, by the work group and approved and submitted by the Commission on July 25, 2013.

Review and Tours of Potential Site Locations

With the assistance and collaboration of the City of Richmond officials, Venture Richmond, and the Virginia Department of General Services, the work group identified potential site locations and toured the Burial Ground for Negroes, Jackson Ward, the Lumpkins Jail Site, Monument Avenue, Tredegar and its vicinity, and Brown's Island to determine the site for the monument. The work group agreed upon two sites on Brown's Island, which has great significance in African American history and is near the old Tredegar Iron Works and the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar. Two landscape artists were retained to advise the work group regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the selected sites on the Island. The work group presented its findings and recommendations to the Commission, Venture Richmond, and City of Richmond officials and began negotiations with Richmond and the process for the request for proposal. A joint press release concerning the establishment of the monument was agreed to by Mayor Dwight Jones and the Commission. The request for proposal was released on November 6, 2013, with the assistance of the Office of the Secretary of Administration, the Department of General Services, the Senate Clerk's Office, and Division of Legislative Services. The deadline for the submission of proposals is December 12, 2013, and the work group will present its recommendation on an sculptor/artist to the Commission on December 18, 2013. In addition, work has begun on the creation of a 501 (c)(3) organization composed of members of the work group to begin the fundraising campaign for the monument.

This summary is the third quarterly report of the Commission. The report will not be filed as a state document.

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