



**First Quarterly Report to the Virginia General Assembly
on the
Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument**

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

October 1, 2012

Background

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission has undertaken the responsibility for planning and coordinating the statewide commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. As a part of the state's commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation in 2013, the General Assembly, in C-1.30 of the 2012-2014 Appropriation Act, has directed the MLK Commission, in cooperation with the Department of General Services, to plan and conduct a feasibility study and fundraising 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 and the Department of General Services must report quarterly to the General Assembly on the progress made on site selection, project design, projected costs, fund raising, and project finances.

Senator Henry L. Marsh, III, Commission Chairman, has assigned this new initiative to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee, which is chaired by Dr. Robert C Vaughan, III, Commission member and President of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

Preliminary meeting with Department of General Services Staff

A preliminary meeting was held between Chairman Marsh, Dr. Vaughan, staff, the Director and Assistant Director of the Department of General Services, and the Director of the Division of Engineering and Buildings to discuss the process and procedures for the construction of state monuments. During the course of the meeting the support of the Department of General Services was affirmed and the Commission's representatives were advised that a site for the monument must be selected first before other key decisions can be made. It was suggested that the staff be requested to develop an outline of the proposed feasibility study, in cooperation with Department of General Services, for the establishment of the monument in Virginia. In addition, Chairman Marsh indicated that he would appoint a subcommittee or work group that would be dedicated to the work on the monument. Also, the matter would be placed on the Commission's October 23, 2013, to notify the members of the budget language and responsibility. It was suggested that the Commission also confer with the Sculpture Department at Virginia Commonwealth University regarding appropriate artists and design.

Continued

Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Work Group

The work group appointed by Chairman Marsh was approved by the Commission on October 23, 2013. The members are as follows:

Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III, *Work Group Chairman*
Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan, *Commission Vice Chairwoman*
The Honorable Viola Baskerville
The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham
Mr. Lee E. Goodman
Dr. Lauranett Lee
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke
Dr. Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Phillip Stone
Shawn O. Utsey, Ph.D.
The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

Ex Officio Member

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, *Commission Chairman*

Advisors

Mr. Richard F. Sliwoski, Director, Department of General Services
Edward Gully, Director, Division of Engineering and Buildings
Jeff Bourne, Counsel to Mayor Dwight Jones
Clyde Cristmas, Senior Analyst, Senate Finance Committee
Dr. Ed Ayers, President, University of Richmond

Identifying the site for the monument, reaching consensus on the monument's interpretation, developing a case statement, fundraising campaign, and public relations strategy, and issuing an RFP for the design and sculptor for the monument are among the issues that must be considered and resolved by the work group. These and other matters will be considered at the work group's organizational meeting on December 10, 2012.

This summary represents the work of the Commission to date and a report will not be filed.

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