



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Commissioners partner with the City of Columbus to Honor King's Legacy**

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution during Tuesday's General Session meeting that provides funding for the City of Columbus' annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Event. This is the first time Franklin County will officially partner with the City as a host for the event.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will begin on Monday, January 19 at 4:30p.m. as Commissioners and other community stakeholders lead a march from City Hall to Veterans Memorial.

Following the march, the Celebration will continue with a program at Veterans Memorial to Celebrate the Legacy "In His Own Words." The program will showcase professional actors recreating untold stories of those who made Central Ohio a better place to live, musical performances by the Eastmoor Mixed Ensemble Choir and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass Children's Choir, as well as a dance performed by Ballet Met. The program will began at 6p.m. with doors opening to the public at 5:15 p.m.

"Dr. King was an inspiration to all of us as Americans. Many of us have joined this march and program in previous years, and now Franklin County has joined this celebration as an official sponsor," said Commissioner Paula Brooks. "This shows that we are all Franklin County, as I like to say."

"Over 40 years ago, Dr. King fought for the civil rights of all Americans," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. "As a man of hope, he taught the American people about overcoming difficulties and disappointments and fighting for what you believe. As a member of the Jewish community, many of my family members were active in the civil rights movement. It is wonderful that Franklin County is celebrating the achievements of this extraordinary man."

"We are truly pleased to have individuals in Franklin County who work to keep the dreams and aspirations of Dr. King alive," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "He gave inspiration to our country and we are grateful for those gifts. This program is a chance for us to celebrate his life and his legacy."

Admission to the MLK Celebration is free but commemorative tickets are available. For more information and tickets, please call 614-645-1993.