



State of Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission



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SECRETARIAT
Commission on
Human Rights &
Opportunities

Date: August 29, 2008

To: Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor

From: Dennis James King, Chairman
State of Connecticut Martin Luther King Holiday Commission

I am honored to submit, on behalf of the Commission, the Annual Report of the State of Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission as required by the Connecticut General Statutes section 10-29(b).

As Chairman, I am pleased to report that the State of Connecticut continues to honor the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday as well as it honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The King Holiday involves various activities in every city and town across Connecticut. The celebration of Dr. King's birthday has become a time for rejoicing and reflection in communities across this state.

Connecticut continues to rejoice because in his short life, Dr. King, by his preaching, by his example and by his leadership, helped to move us closer to the ideals on which this nation was founded.

Commission members have spoken at churches, high schools, senior centers and colleges across the state, sharing the importance of the King Holiday. Due to budget constraints, the Commission is no longer able to conduct its annual Youth Conference, where over 300 students from 35 high schools across the state gathered for a one day workshops concerning the many challenges students encounter on their journey through adolescence. The Commission has been conducting these workshops since 1997. It is our hope, when funding is available, to continue these workshops in the future.

The Commission is pleased to share what we consider to be a monumental achievement for the citizens of the State of Connecticut. The State of Connecticut Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, along with various community and business partners, have come together to honor Dr. King by commemorating the presence of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Coretta as a statue and sanctuary in the City of Hartford.

This (8) eight foot monument of both Dr. King and his wife Coretta, will be placed on the statue base at the corner of Greenfield and Ridgefield Streets known as Fien Square. Park benches will surround the monument along with a water fountain and lighting that will be used for reflection, contemplation and illumination of Dr. King and his legacy. Upon its completion, the monument will inform residents and visitors alike, of the ever-present spiritual commitment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta.

It is the hope of this Commission, that upon the completion of the monument, Dr. King and Coretta will hopefully continue to inspire citizens across Connecticut. Their contributions to Civil Rights and to the art of citizenship are a model of courageous love worthy of examination. The fundraising has begun and the partnership with various state and local entities will continue.

This is a great American whom we, as a State, are proud to celebrate and embrace.