

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton Street**

This meeting will be held in the Allison Conference Room (Suite 225), City Hall, 401 N. Morton St) and may also be accessed via zoom at the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87885165070?pwd=tauuBRe8TpWez0beqKFw3hFaoReakT.1>

Meeting ID: 878 8516 5070

Passcode: 263131

Materials for this meeting can be found on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission's website, which is located at the following address:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/mlk>

Agenda

1. Introductions / Call to Order - 6:00 P.M.

- A. Present: Gloria Howell (chair), James Sanders (vice-chair), Julie Roberts, Brittany King, Jatnna Ayala Ruiz, Lena Renae Williams, Latonya Wilson
- B. Staff: Aubrey Seader (staff liaison)
- C. Visitors: Mayor Kerry Thomson

2. Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes

- A. August 2026 Meeting Minutes - Approved by consent

3. New Business

- A. Welcome New Commissioner: Jatnna Ayala Ruiz
 - a. All commissioners introduced themselves.
 - b. Aubrey gave an introduction to the commission for the benefit of Jatnna, Lena, and Mayor Thomson.
- B. Visit from Mayor Kerry Thomson
 - a. Mayor Thomson and the commission discussed the commission's questions, concerns, and feedback.
 - b. Commissioners requested clearer guidance on communications.
 - c. Commissioners requested a meeting where a representative from each commission could attend and ask questions about communications.
 - d. James Sanders requested that an agenda item be added for October 2026:

- i. Review September 2026 Meeting concerns and requests, and check in with the Office of the Mayor on progress.
- ii. Write out possible solutions to concerns brought up in the meeting (beyond what was proposed).

4. Old Business

A. MLK 2027 Event Planning Updates

- a. Sandra Chapman has agreed to be the 2027 MLK Event Keynote.
- b. Resilience Productions hasn't responded to the invite to perform, AACE has confirmed they will attend.
- c. Contracts for BCT, AACE, and Sandra Chapman are all in progress.
- d. Liaison reviewed progress on each element of the program.
- e. Commissioners liked the theme "MLK & the Black Press: 200 Years of Pleading Our Own Cause."

5. Reports (if any)

A. Staff Liaison Report

- a. See above (MLK 2027 Updates)

B. NAACP Report

a. Freedom Schools Project Updates

- i. Resilience Productions show - NAACP going on 10/4 and taking students from Freedom School.

C. CSBM Report

a. Black Male Summit

- i. Didn't have time to discuss Black Male Youth Summit.

D. Public Comment

6. Adjournment - 7:08 P.M.

Board Membership

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, and in compliance with Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
James Sanders	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Brittany King	Mayor	4/30/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Latonya Wilson	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Gloria Howell	Mayor	2/1/2024	2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028
Julie Roberts	Monroe County NAACP	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 to 1/31/2027
Lena Renae Williams	Mayor	6/1/2026	6/1/2026 to 5/31/2028

Board Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Jatnna Ayala Ruiz	Common Council	09/01/2026	9/1/2026 to 8/31/2028

The City of Bloomington is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing this notice or related meeting materials, please contact the Community & Family Resources Department at cfrd@bloomington.in.gov or at 812-349-3430 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.