

## Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Holiday DC Peace Walk and Parade

**WHAT:** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Holiday DC Peace Walk and Parade

**WHERE:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue between Malcolm X and Marion Barry Avenues, SE

**WHEN:** Monday, January 15, 2024, 11 AM – 2 PM

**DETAILS:** This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Holiday Peace Walk and Parade commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hundreds of peace walkers, parade participants, youths and youth-serving organizations will join marching bands from as far away as New Jersey and Norfolk, VA, Mayor Muriel Bowser and other public officials for the 2.1 mile walk along the Ward 8 avenue named in Dr. King's honor.

A peace rally featuring advocates for peace will be held at 10 AM at Shepherd Park, located at MLK and Malcolm X Avenues before the walk begins at 10:45 AM. The walkers will be led by area faith leaders followed by young people wearing purple "I Am a Peace Maker" hoodies. Some participants will carry signs with photos of loved ones lost to gun violence.

Parade participants will assemble on the campus of St. Elizabeth's at the R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center. The parade will kick-off at 11 AM and proceed down MLK Avenue past the **reviewing stand at MLK between W & V Streets, S.E.** to the newly renamed Marion Barry Avenue into Anacostia Park. Over 1,000 participants have registered to participate this year.

2024 also marks 45 years since the first MLK parade was held in the District of Columbia following the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968 and before the national holiday was declared a national holiday in 1994. Singer/composer Stevie Wonder was the grand marshal on January 15, 1979. He rode alongside parade founders Ward 8 Councilmember Wilhelmina Rolark, Washington Informer Publisher Dr. Calvin W. Rolark and radio talk show and activist Ralph "Waldo" Petey Green.

This year's grand marshals include: Sam Ford, retired WJLA News reporter; Lourdes Robinson, DC Youth Mayor; Tyrone Parker, founder, Alliance of Concerned Men; Reverend Wanda Thompson, pastor, Ambassador Baptist Church; and Regina Pixley, community activist.

The MLK Holiday DC Committee is an ad-hoc group of volunteers who plan several events leading up to and on the MLK Holiday. (See attached).

**FOR ON SITE INQUIRIES, A MEDIA STATION WILL BE LOCATED AT THE REVIEWING STAND**

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