



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 23, 2023

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## **OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

By Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

### **CHAOS OR COMMUNITY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

**DETROIT** – It has been 60 years since June 23, 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was invited to the city of Detroit by the Rev. C. L. Franklin of New Bethel Baptist Church, Rev. Albert Cleage, James Del Rio, Tony Brown, Jr., and of course Walter Reuther, President of the United Auto Workers. They had formed the Detroit Council For Human Rights which led the way for King to come to Detroit. We stand here at Central United Methodist Church, a place of historic significance, remembering just 14 days after Dr. King gave his last sermon here in 1968, he would be assassinated at a Memphis, Tennessee motel. The Detroit Branch NAACP is pleased to once again commemorate this historic occasion at our **June Jubilee: A Celebration Of Freedom**, June 22-25, right here in the city of Detroit. It was in Detroit that Dr. King gave that preliminary address of I Have A Dream at Cobo Hall on that June day. It is important for all to remember that before he went to D.C., he came right here to the Big D, Detroit! This is a continuation of a commemoration not just to honor a dream but to help implement a plan to bring equity and opportunity to all of America's sons and daughters.

The Detroit Branch, the nation's largest, was in the forefront of the walk to freedom in 1993, 2003, 2013 and now 2023. For the past four decades we have stayed on the course marching towards freedom and justice. For four days we will focus on the question of freedom and justice but also re-discover what Dr. King meant when he wrote his last book *Chaos or Community: Where Do We Go From Here?* We all hold the answer within our hands as it has been deposited deep into our spirit. Our four-day schedule includes the following:

- Thursday, June 22, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Freedom Summit to be held at the Northwest Campus of Wayne County Community College District. Topics will include Voter Mobilization – Registration and Protection; Critical Race Theory – What It Is and What It Ain't; The Civil Rights Movement and Labor; Closing The Wealth Gap Through Housing and Equitable Access; The Criminal Justice System — Let's Stop The Violence.
- Friday, June 23 – a special unveiling of a commemorative statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to be placed permanently in Hart Plaza.
- Saturday, June 24 – Walk Towards Freedom 10 a.m., Woodward Ave and Martin Luther King Blvd; rally in Hart Plaza to follow.
- Sunday, June 25 – 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner at Huntington Place, 5 p.m.

Everyone throughout the state and this region is invited to join with us, city, suburb, rural, upper, and lower peninsula some of the participants: Freedom Summits – Derrick Johnson, President, National NAACP; Ms. Ayanna Gregory, actor, writer, singer daughter of civil rights icon Dick Gregory will perform a one act play on the civil rights movement; national voting rights strategist Dominik Whitehead; National NAACP; Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, American Legal Scholar, civil rights advocate, and leading scholar of critical race theory UCLA School of Law and Columbia School of Law; Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, author, professor, and philosopher, Vanderbilt University; and Jamon Jordan, teacher, historian, educator, founder the Black Scroll Network, city of Detroit's Historian.

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**June Jubilee**

As we also celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hip hop industry, we will be joined by Doug E. Fresh, one of the originators of positive rap Saturday at the March For Freedom. We have more special guests that will join us for this weekend, which we will announce in a few days.

Finally, we are pleased to indicate that our special speaker for the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner will be from that historic race, the first African American Senator from the great state of Georgia, Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock. He is also the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This will be a tremendous four days in the D. Sign up to volunteer for the march as marshals, ushers, and general support. Go to [detroitnaacp.org](http://detroitnaacp.org) or call 313-871-2087 to register and join this historic weekend.

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