



**For Immediate Release from
The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission set to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional representatives to discuss initiatives to improve relationships between law enforcement and the community

Mental health, training, youth engagement strategies, community collaborations will be amongst several topics discussed during presentations

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LITTLE ROCK-The mission of the Arkansas Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state; and to promote the principles of nonviolence and equality among all citizens. Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history, and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission works with state and federal government to promote the noble tenants of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the state and nation across several platforms. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. met with President Lyndon Baines Johnson on several occasions to discuss issues of concern and influence landmark legislation including the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

To commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the March on Washington, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will travel to Washington, D.C. with a delegation of members of various law enforcement agencies to discuss initiatives to impact legislation to improve relationships between law enforcement and the community. The Commission will also request congressional input on recommendations received from constituent feedback at programs to prevent violence within the congressional districts and across the country.

The Commission received an overwhelming amount of support on this project from law enforcement agencies from across the state and we will present their proposals during the meeting. Through this outreach, which is fashioned to bring voices to the table to talk with elected officials, it is the Commission's hopes that these ideas will be presented either in committee hearings or on the congressional floors to a larger body of legislators in the future.

Law Enforcement Delegates Traveling with The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

- **Chief Keith Humphrey, Little Rock Police Department**
- **Officer Shelby Hunter, representing Chief of Police Patrick Thessing, North Little Rock Police Department**
- **Deputy Chief Denise Richardson, representing interim Chief Lloyd Franklin, Sr. Pine Bluff Police Department**
- **Chief Chris Chapmond, Hot Springs Police Department (representation via letter)**
- **Chief Carl Minden, Benton Police Department (representation via letter)**

“We believe that police have the ability to influence lives. Law enforcement is a noble profession. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will discuss youth engagement strategies and initiatives that include collaborations, strategy development, assessments, change management, and evaluation. It is the Commission's goal to utilize the proposals as blueprint models for Commission's and organizations across the nation. This is the Commission's opportunity to promote the Kingian philosophy of reconciliation, education, and building what Dr. King labeled as “The Beloved Community” which included crucial conversations with our elected officials. The Commission has had a lot of involvement and support at previous programs from our congressional delegates and look forward to meeting with them to present feedback from the law enforcement community and the

community at large in improving relationships between law enforcement and the community,” says DuShun Scarbrough.

About the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission – A Division of the Arkansas Department of Education reaches thousands of Arkansans throughout the state’s four (4) congressional districts with public service and outreach projects that exemplify the values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his philosophy with a central focus on serving others by alleviating poverty, building community, and fostering peace through Dr. King’s Principles of Nonviolence. It is our goal to improve outreach to underserved communities and address disparities through impactful programming in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated (A.C.A.) § 25-24-102. It is one of the many duties of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (as a nonpartisan governmental organization) to promote among the people of Arkansas, by appropriate activities, both awareness and appreciation of the civil rights movement as well as enable the people of Arkansas to reflect on the life and teachings of Dr. King

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