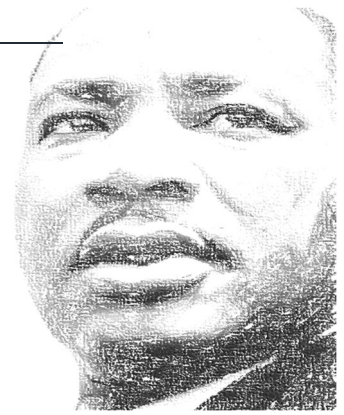

Apex Martin Luther King Commemoration 2021



Date of Events: Friday, January 15, 2021 thru Sunday, January 17, 2021
Location: Historic Downtown Apex and the Halle Cultural Arts Center
Organizers: Jacoby and Tayon Dancy | 919.454.6400 | tayond@gmail.com
Staff Liaison: Donna Hosch, Town Clerk | 249.1260

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is a recognized paid holiday by the Town of Apex. Last year Council Member Killingsworth questioned why there were no events celebrating this holiday – as is the case in surrounding municipalities. She asked the Town Manager to have staff organize event/s which would recognize and celebrate the holiday. Mayor Pro Tem Dozier has assisted in this effort and reached out to two citizens, Jacoby and Tayon Dancy, who are event organizers who shared the same concerns. They have graciously agreed to use their expertise and contacts to develop three days of celebration activities in which all members of the community can participate and enjoy.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

NOTE: Upon approval from Town Council for sponsorship of the events, the Darcy's will work with a committee to formulate all the details of the following events. The Darcy's have not asked for any type of compensation for their time in this effort; their reward is being able to provide inclusive and meaningful events to celebrate the MLK holiday.

Friday, January 15 ~ The Darcy's will coordinate with local schools and other organizations to organize a step show which will be performed at the Community Center Gym or virtually if required due to COVID restrictions. If approved as a Town-sponsored event, the rental fee will be \$0.00. As a note, there was no fee charged last year during Black History Month for the plays held at the Halle.

The Darcy's will work with the local schools to engage students to write essays related to MLK or the holiday. There will be three separate categories, which will be identified. The Darcy's will work with the schools on the selection process of winners. The three winners will read their essays Friday night and be awarded their prizes.

There will also be speeches made by members of the community selected by the committee. An African American Art Exhibit is also being considered to include local artists in a gallery at the Halle.

- **Virtual Accommodations:**

This event will be free, virtual, and hosted via Zoom on Friday evening. The Zoom account will be provided by the Western Wake Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. It will still highlight the student essays, but the essays will be prerecorded and streamed during the virtual session. Step show scenes will be provided via pre-recorded video and streamed during the live session. Some educational clips will be provided on Dr. Martin Luther King and his membership in the Greek Letter organization Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Greek community leaders will also provide some words to commemorate this event. Since this event is also focused on engaging the youth, the committee may plan a Youth Panel to discuss the Social Environment that we see today.

Saturday, January 16 ~ A March and Unity Prayer will begin at Apex First Baptist Church and end at the Town Hall parking lot. There speeches will be given, and prayers will be offered. At the end to these activities, there will be a to-go brunch (i.e., biscuit and drink).

- **Virtual Accommodations:**

A Virtual March & Prayer will be planned in lieu of in person depending on conditions related to COVID-19 safety guidelines. We can still virtually kick-off from Apex First Baptist Church assuming agreement from the Lead Pastor and end at the Town Hall via speeches. Rev. Dr. Dumas Harshaw, the chair of the Triangle MLK Board, will also come and bring greetings. Apex Town Council Mayor and/or dignitaries will address the audience also. Leaders of local Greek Organizations will address the audience. The agenda will be planned to include a keynote address by Evangelist Tayon Dancy and several prayers offered up by Church leaders or lay persons within the community. Virtual song may also be provided.

Sunday, January 17 ~ There will be a commemoration service at a local church. The Dancy's are hoping to hold this event at Apex First Baptist.

- **Virtual Accommodations:**

The community will plan to join Apex First Baptist Church of Apex, North Carolina for Sunday Worship streamed online.