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Michigan Joins Celebration to “Let Freedom Ring!” on August 28

Bell-ringing events around the world will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech

Lansing, MI—The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) today asked communities, congregations, educational institutions and individuals in every corner of the state to join in the worldwide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s seminal “I Have a Dream” speech on Wednesday, August 28. MDCR is helping coordinate “Let Freedom Ring!” bell-ringing events throughout Michigan at 3 pm Eastern Standard Time on the 28th – a half-century to the minute after Dr. King delivered his historic address during the 1963 March on Washington.

“Fifty years after he spoke the words, Dr. King’s message still resonates with people the world over, inspiring new generations to strive for peace, justice, and equality,” said Leslee Fritz, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. “I encourage people all over Michigan to organize bell-ringing events in your churches and mosques, schools and synagogues – anywhere there are bells or a carillon.”

To register your “Let Freedom Ring!” bell-ringing event, learn about events others are planning, and share images from your celebration, go to the MDCR Facebook page at www.facebook.com/midcr, or email your event details and photos to MDCRFacebook@michigan.gov.

The department is encouraging individuals who are unable to attend a “Let Freedom Ring!” event to set an alarm on their cell phone or tablet for 3 pm EST, and celebrate by ringing their own personal ‘bells’ – on their own or with friends and family.

The King Center in Atlanta and the 50th Anniversary Coalition have organized the day-long commemoration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on August 28. The program begins with an interfaith service from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the Tidal Basin, followed by the “Let Freedom Ring!” Commemoration and Call to Action at the nearby Lincoln Memorial from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. that includes the bell-ringing ceremony at 3:00 p.m.

For more information on events commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s speech and the March on Washington, go to www.mlkdream50.com, www.michigan.gov/MDCR, and MDCR’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/midcr.

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“ . . . So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi . . .”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

August 28, 1963

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