



For Immediate Release

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Celebrate MLK Day with the County Executive

Waukesha, WIS. – County Executive Dan Finley will hold a public program to celebrate and honor the life and legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 19, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., at La Casa de Esperanza, in Waukesha.

Finley said, "We originally started planning a small event where county employees could honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., however, the response was overwhelming as numerous people contacted my office asking to participate. I'm proud of the fact that Waukesha County has enthusiastically embraced many of the ideals that he taught."

Attendees will be greeted with a musical ensemble coordinated through La Casa de Esperanza, and Finley will lead the program with opening remarks. The distinguished Ulice Payne, Jr., will provide a keynote address.

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Jacob Allen, a sophomore at Brookfield Central High School and the president of the recently chartered National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Waukesha County Youth Council; Lillie Wilson, president of NAACP in Waukesha County; and Anselmo Villarreal, executive director of La Casa de Esperanza, will also provide remarks.

Omo-Ana: Children of the Spirit of the Drum will provide a special performance that depicts the culture, music and dance of Africa and the African Diaspora. The group is directed by Dr. Cecil Austin of John Marshall High School in Milwaukee.

To honor this special occasion, Rev. Jesse Jackson sent a resolution that will be read and presented to Finley. The resolution will then be framed and publicly displayed in the County Executive's Office.

King was a civil rights leader who inspired men and women of all ages from around the world through his vision and voice on racial justice, tolerance and equality, which helped make democracy a reality for all residents in the United States.

On January 18, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring the third Monday in January of each year a public holiday in honor of King's birthday. With this being the 18th year of national observation, King would have been 75 years old.

The County's planning efforts consisted of representatives from both the public and private sectors. La Casa de Esperanza graciously donated the use of their facility, volunteer and

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staff support, and coordinated entertainment to greet guests. The Carroll College Black Student Union has also volunteered to assist with event needs.

"This event is an impressive display of a diverse group of people, from a variety of organizations, coming together to celebrate such an honored occasion," said Finley. "I am looking forward to visiting with the attendees."

La Casa de Esperanza is located at 410 Arcadian, in Waukesha. Parking is available on the street and at the rear of the facility. Refreshments will be served immediately after the program is finished.

If you have questions about the program, please call Meghan Walsh in the County Executive's Office at (262) 548-7902.

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