



DEXTER L. McCOY
COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Groundbreaking ceremony for African-American Memorial scheduled for Juneteenth
Public and press invited to take part in historic celebration at Bates Allen Park

FORT BEND COUNTY, TX – Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy's Office proudly announces a historic groundbreaking event for the first African-American Memorial of this magnitude in the region. The Juneteenth groundbreaking signifies the beginning of construction for a \$10 million memorial that will honor the journey of African Americans in Fort Bend County.

“As we gather to break ground on this historic endeavor, we stand on the shoulders of giants who came before us,” said Commissioner McCoy. “I’m inviting everyone to take part in this powerful journey to honor the legacies of those we didn’t learn about in school.”

What: African-American Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony

When: Gates open at 9:30 a.m., Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10:30 a.m., City of Kendleton’s Juneteenth Celebration at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Bates Allen Park, Kendleton, Texas, 77435

Who: Elected officials, community leaders, members of the public, and special performances by National Gospel Recording Artist Kathy Taylor, Saxophonist Anthony Rejiv, Texas Southern University’s band, and the winner of Expose Excellence’s spoken word competition on dignity

This event marks the 159th anniversary since slaves in Fort Bend learned of their long-awaited freedom under the still-standing Freedom Oak in Missouri City.

The City of Kendleton stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of its founders, which were six freed families who purchased land from a plantation owner and laid the foundation for the community. It is fitting that the African-American Memorial will stand in Kendleton, as a symbol of perseverance and progress that will attract visitors for generations to come.

With an allocation of funds from parks bonds, the African-American Memorial has garnered support from all corners of the political spectrum. It is a testament to the shared belief in the power of remembrance, healing, and reconciliation.

[Click here for a link to photos, video, and historical context.](#)

Fort Bend County is home to nearly 900,000 people and is one of the fastest growing counties and most



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ethnically diverse counties in the United States. Commissioner McCoy took office in 2023 to serve Fort Bend Precinct 4's nearly 250,000 residents. For more information on what's happening in Commissioner Precinct 4 visit our website (FBCTX.gov/Precinct4) or follow our socials @FBCprecinct4.

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