



DEXTER L. McCOY
COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POSTPONED-Groundbreaking ceremony for African-American Memorial scheduled for Juneteenth
Office and partners will determine another summer date to host festivities

FORT BEND COUNTY, TX – Due to tropical weather development in the Gulf of Mexico and the anticipated storms, Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy’s office made the difficult decision to postpone this Wednesday’s African-American Memorial Groundbreaking to a date later in the summer.

“Safety is our top priority and the anticipated storm would put Wednesday’s event and participants at risk. We hope everyone will keep their spirits and enthusiasm for the African-American Memorial high as we determine a new date for the groundbreaking,” said Commissioner McCoy.

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

The groundbreaking signifies the beginning of construction for a \$10 million memorial that will honor the journey of African Americans in Fort Bend County. This Juneteenth 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.](#)



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