

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2017

City of New Orleans Announces Schedule of Events for 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

NEW ORLEANS—Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the New Orleans Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Holiday Planning Commission announced this year’s schedule of events and programs to honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The official week-long celebration kicks off Thursday, January, 12, 2017 and will include the Annual Memorial Service and the United Teachers of New Orleans choral concert. Additionally, this year’s events will include the first ever awards ceremony entitled “New Orleans Together,” which will include an appearance by Grammy-award winner, India.Arie.

“One of the greatest things about Dr. King was that he recognized that if we do not go forward together, we cannot go forward at all,” said **Mayor Mitch Landrieu**. “With this in mind, our 2017 MLK holiday theme is New Orleans Together. The City of New Orleans looks forward to reflecting on the life of this great leader and working to make our city and the world, the place he always dreamed it would be.”

The commemoration events and programs are organized by the MLK Holiday Planning Commission, which is comprised of New Orleans residents. The MLK Commission has been meeting for the past few months under the leadership of Reverend Norwood Thompson.

Reverend Norwood Thompson, Co-Chair of the MLK Commission, said, “We are very proud of the lineup of events we have put together to celebrate the life and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We encourage every resident of New Orleans to join us in our efforts to commemorate his legacy.”

All residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events. The City's official program will be held on the steps of City Hall on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 at 9 a.m., followed by the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March at 9:45 a.m.

The nearly 1 and a half mile-long march will start at City Hall (1300 Perdido St.) It will go down Loyola Avenue toward Uptown. Loyola Avenue turns into Simon Bolivar Boulevard. The parade will turn right on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, head toward S. Claiborne Avenue and end at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument on S. Claiborne Avenue and Felicity Street.

Marching units including bands, dance troupes or others interested in participating in the parade should register with Sherlyn Harris at 504-658-4200 or slharris@nola.gov.

Visit www.nola.gov/city/mlk2017 for more information and a full list of this year's events.

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