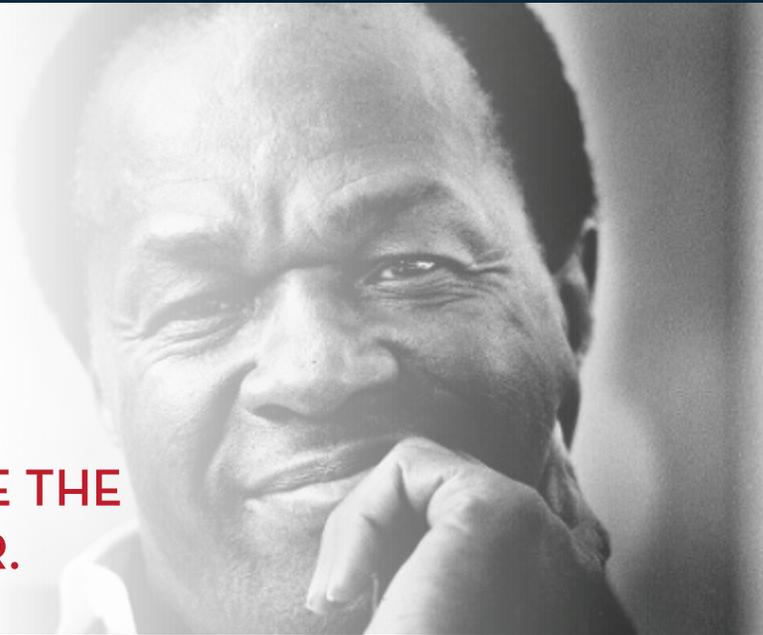


★ ★ ★ GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

COMMISSION TO
COMMEMORATE AND RECOGNIZE THE
HONORABLE MARION S. BARRY JR.



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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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I. OVERVIEW AND PROCESS:

The Commission to Commemorate and Recognize the Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr. (“Commission”) was established by Mayoral Order 2015-081, March 6, 2015. Tasked with determining the most appropriate action or actions of commemoration, the Commission’s final proposal was authorized to include one or more of the following, but not limited to: renaming a street, public building, program, initiative, and/or establishing any new public program, initiative, event or artistic display, as well as erecting a statue.

Pursuant to the Mayoral Order, Commissioners met monthly from March through October 2015 following a published notice in the DC Register. Meetings were held in various locations across the City and open to the public but lightly attended. Commissioners engaged in many discussions of how the City could best commend Mayor Barry’s work and as the minutes of the July 19th meeting reflect, the members unanimously agreed that recognition must reflect four areas: Community, Education, Government, and Youth.

As a part of the Commission’s charter, members were also asked to engage the public to seek ideas, as well as acquire feedback regarding the ideas being developed by the Commission. On August 19th, the Commission held a public engagement forum at the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center, located in Ward 8, going directly in the community that Mayor Barry last represented. The Commission provided the audience with a preliminary list of ideas on how he could be honored.

The meeting drew more than 100 citizens eager to offer ideas of their own and applauded the recommendations of the Commissioners. Chairman Michael Rogers opened the forum by announcing the criteria established by Commission and the four recommendations they developed. The audience applauded and cheered with approval. More than 40 participants opted to complete a form provided to express ideas. Some 50 people spoke, offering their views on ways to commemorate Mayor Barry, as well as offering praise for his service to the City, especially the Summer Employment Youth Program (SYEP). The Commission announced that Mayor Bowser had taken the first step by renaming the SYEP after Mayor Barry.

Some participants referred to the forum as a movement and expressed readiness to volunteer. The outline below represents the plethora of ideas received by the Commission:

A. Education

a. Endowment of Chairs

- i. UDC**
- ii. All DC Universities**

b. Scholarship Programs

- i. High school students to attend UDC**
- ii. Fund-open applications**
- iii. SYEP-Allow participants to shadow elected officials to encourage service to others**

B. Government

- a. Renaming of Building
 - i. UDC Student Center
 - ii. Reeves Center
 - iii. Building at Shannon Place
 - iv. Anacostia Library
 - v. Council Chambers, 5th Floor, Wilson Building
 - b. Creation of Statue
 - i. Wilson Building-Outside or Inside
 - ii. Freedom Plaza
 - iii. At Big Chair site
 - iv. A location in Ward 8
 - c. Establish Local Holiday
 - i. Legislation to honor the birthday
 - ii. Annual Event on April 17 “Marion Barry Day”
- C. Community
- a. Renaming Park
 - i. Oxon Hill
 - b. Renaming of Roads and Bridges
 - i. Benning Road/H Street
 - ii. Mississippi Ave
 - iii. Alabama Ave
 - iv. 14th Street
 - v. Bridge 295 (DC Side)
 - vi. Good Hope Road
 - vii. Any street in Ward 8
 - c. Creation of Museum
 - i. Exhibit in National Museum of African American History and Culture
 - ii. Art show in all Wards depicting him
 - iii. An addition within a youth or learning center
 - iv. Renaming Anacostia Library
- D. Youth
- a. Renaming of Frank Ballou High School
 - b. Establish Job Corp Program
 - i. Create trade school
 - ii. Honor summer jobs

All ideas were discussed and considered. Some suggestions were eliminated due to a lack of City control. For example, some proposed streets for renaming, ideas related to Freedom Plaza, and parts of Oxon Run Park were found to be federal controlled. Therefore, based upon Commission deliberations, public input, and City authority, the Commission is offering four (4) recommendations for Mayoral consideration to commemorate and recognize D.C.’s “Mayor for Life”, the Honorable Marion S. Barry Jr. Commissioners deemed it appropriate to

honor Mayor Barry throughout the City and to align the ideas for recognition with one of four principle areas: Community, Education, Government, and Youth. Members also wanted to make sure his legacy was marked in a way that would have significant visibility for residents as well as tourists. Based on these criteria, commissioners are proposing the recommendations below:

1. Erecting a bust or statue in front of or inside the John A. Wilson Building (Government)
2. The renaming of Ballou Senior High School (Youth)
3. The renaming of a road or street (Community)
4. Naming of the new student center at the University of the District of Columbia (Education)