



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Metropolitan Historical Commission Meeting

Agenda

Teleconference

March 15, 2021

12:00 p.m.

- | | |
|--|--|
| I. Call to Order | Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair |
| II. Establish that COVID-19 requires telephonic meeting as permitted under Executive Order No. 16 | |
| III. Approval of February Minutes | Dr. Clay Bailey |
| IV. Preservation Awards | Dr. Bill McKee
Scarlett Miles |
| V. Historical Marker <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Lewis | Jessica Reeves |
| VI. Updates | Dr. Clay Bailey |
| VII. Adjourn | |

Metro Historical Commission
3000 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204
www.nashville.gov/mhc
historicalcommission@nashville.gov



The Metro Nashville Historical Commission does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in access to, or operation of its programs, services, activities or in its hiring or employment practices. **ADA inquiries may be directed to:** ADA Compliance Coordinator, Metro Historical Commission, (615) 862-7970. **Title VI inquiries should be forwarded to:** Ms. Shirley Sims-Saldana, Title VI Coordinator, Human Relations, 800 2nd Avenue, South, 4th Floor, Nashville, TN 37210, (615) 880-3391. **Contact Department of Human Resources for all employment related inquiries** at (615) 862-6640.

John Robert Lewis
February 21, 1940-July 17, 2020

John Robert Lewis was born on Feb. 21, 1940 to sharecropper parents in Troy, Ala.¹ He entered Nashville's American Baptist Theological Seminary in 1957 and soon began attending non-violence workshops at Clark Memorial Methodist Church with the Rev. James Lawson.² These workshops were the foundation of the Nashville Sit-Ins Movement.³ In late 1959, Lewis took part in "test" sit-ins at nearby Cain-Sloan and Harvey's and was in the group of students arrested at Woolworth on Feb. 27, 1960.⁴

487 characters and spaces

Here, Lewis and nine other reinforcement Freedom Riders boarded a Greyhound bus to Ala. on May 17, 1961.⁵ In 1963, he was elected chair of the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee and helped plan and was a keynote speaker at the March on Washington.⁶ He was attacked in Selma on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965 as part of a voting rights campaign.⁷ A 1967 Fisk University graduate, Lewis was elected to Congress in 1986, serving 17 terms until his death on July 17, 2020.⁸

484 characters and spaces

¹ John Lewis, *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1999), xv, 15.

² John Meacham, *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* (New York: Random House, 2020), 47, 57; Clark Memorial United Methodist Church "History."

<https://www.clarkumcnashville.org/history>; *Nashville (Davidson County, Tenn.) City Directory* (St. Louis, MO: R.L. Polk and Co., Publishers), 127.

³ SNCC Digital Gateway, "Fall 1959: Jim Lawson Conducts Nonviolence Workshops in Nashville," <https://snccdigital.org/events/jim-lawson-conducts-nonviolent-workshops-in-nashville/>.

⁴ Lewis, *Walking*, 87; Meacham, *Truth*, 70; Linda Wynn, "The Dawning of a New Day: The Nashville Sit-Ins, February 13-May 10, 1960," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 50, no. 1 (1991) 42-54; Olivia Paschal, "Remembering Our Elders: John Lewis Recalls the Nashville sit-ins," *Facing South*, July 18, 2020, <https://www.facingsouth.org/2020/07/remembering-our-elders-john-lewis-recalls-nashville-sit-ins>.

⁵ Lewis, *Walking*, 145; SNCC Digital Gateway, "May 1961: Nashville Students and SNCC Pick UP Freedom Rides," <https://snccdigital.org/events/freedom-rides/>. Raymond Arsenault, *Freedom Rides: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice* (New York: Oxford University Press), 538; Stanford University Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, "Freedom Rides," <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/freedom-rides>.

⁶ "Lewis Elected as SNCC Chairman," *The Student Voice*, August 1, 1963 <https://newseumed.org/tools/artifact/john-lewis-elected-sncc-chairman-1963>; National Civil Rights Trail, "In Memoriam: Rep. John Lewis," <https://civilrightstrail.com/experience/rep-john-lewis/>.

⁷ "John Lewis (in the foreground) being beaten by State Troopers, March 7, 1965," *Associated Press*, <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/eyewitness/html.php?section=2>; "Testimony of John Lewis from a hearing resulting from the March 7, 1965, march from Selma to Montgomery in support of voting rights, page 297" *National Archives—Southeast Region, Morrow, Georgia, Records of District Courts of United States*; SNCC Digital Gateway, "March 1965: Bloody Sunday," <https://snccdigital.org/events/bloody-sunday/>.

⁸ Lewis, *Walking*, 400; "Nashvillian, Bahamian Head Graduates at Fisk," *Tennessean*, June 4, 1967; Frederick Allen, "Lewis Pulls Off Stunning Upset," *Atlanta Constitution*, September 3, 1986; Representative John Lewis, <https://www.congress.gov/member/john-lewis/L000287?searchResultViewType=expanded>; "Honoring Congressman John Lewis," American Bar Association 2019 Thurgood Marshall Award, <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/awards/crsj-thurgood-marshall-award/about-john-lewis/>; Katherine Q. Seelye, "John Lewis, Towering Figure of Civil Rights Era, Dies at 80," *New York Times*, July 17, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/us/john-lewis-dead.html>.



HOW DOES THE MEETING WORK? SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Out of an abundance of caution, and pursuant to recommendations from federal, state and local health agencies regarding avoiding group gatherings due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus the March 15th meeting will be via teleconference. To protect the health and safety of our community, we strongly encourage all members of the public to view this meeting remotely.

During this meeting, there will be an opportunity to call in and give a comment. The number to call for live commenting is 629-255-1965 and the Chair will announce when the phone lines are open and ready to receive calls.

Event: 3-15-21 | Metro Historical Commission Meeting

Date and Time: 3-15-21 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Please join this meeting at least 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

When it's time, you may join the Event (hover mouse over green button and use Ctrl+Click to follow link)

Join Event

Link:

<https://nashville.webex.com/nashville/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee2b809ef2db57a4b07e79e368c6b103b>

If you would like to join via phone:

- 1) Call '415-655-0002'
- 2) When prompted for the meeting access code, enter '187 150 5934' followed by #
- 3) When prompted, press # to indicate you are an attendee

If the link does not work:

- 1) Go to Nashville.webex.com
- 2) Enter '187 150 5934' in the Join Meeting Text box and hit enter
- 3) Fill in your information on the right hand-side
- 4) Enter the Event Password, enter 'metro'.
- 5) Click on 'Join Now'



Comments to the Commission can also be communicated via mail or email. To ensure your comments are included, please send email no later than 10 a.m. on Monday, March 15th. Comments received regarding items on the agenda will be recorded into the record by a historical commission staff member by reading written comments. Comments may also be called in during the meeting as noted earlier.

Mailing Address: MHC, 3000 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204

E-mail: historicalcommission@nashville.gov

For information on how virtual public meetings:

<https://www.nashville.gov/Government/Virtual-Board-and-Commission-Meetings.aspx>