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Moral March/HKonJ Rally This Saturday

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The political stage is set for this Saturday's Tenth Annual Moral March in Raleigh/HK on J People's Assembly, kicking off at 8:30 a.m. with a pre-march rally at 2 East South Street near Shaw University in downtown Raleigh,

with a march down the Fayetteville Street Mall to the steps of the State Capitol kicking off at 10 a.m..

It is called the "Get Out The Vote Gathering and Mobilization," sponsored by the NCNAACP and the Forward Together Movement. The People's

will end at 12:30 p.m.

At the assembly, there will be voter registration for the tentative March 15th primaries (tentative thanks to a federal appeals court ruling last Friday throwing out redistricting maps for the First and Twelfth Congressional Districts, and ordering that they be

redrawn within the next two weeks).

Following the Moral March on Raleigh, there will be a Souls to the Polls training about how faith communities can register, educate, and mobilize their congregations and communities to the polls.

On Friday evening, Feb. 12, there will be a pre-Moral March/People's Assembly mass meeting and worship service, featuring Rabbi Fred Guttman, starting at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 101 S. Wilmington Street in Raleigh.

The agenda, as always, for the Moral March, includes the expansion and protection of voting rights; economic justice and livable wages per labor rights; educational equity through proper funding for quality public schools and support for historically black colleges and universities; health care for all Medicaid expansion, women's health and environmental justice; equal protection under the law through justice without regard to race, creed, class, gender, sexual orientation or immigration status; and police reform.

According to the *USA Today* newspaper, over 80,000 demonstrators participated in the 2015 Moral March/People's Assembly, making it one of the largest social justice gatherings in the nation at the time. This year organizers say they are trying to attract even more participants in an effort to register to register at many as possible for this year's state and national elections.

A highlight of Saturday's People's Assembly will be an address by David Goodman, the brother of the late Andrew Goodman, who, along with fellow civil rights workers Michael "Mickey" Schwerner and James Chaney, were killed by the Ku Klux Klan in Neshoba County, Mississippi in June 1964. They were there to help register black people there to vote.

David Goodman, along with his wife, heads up the Andrew Goodman Foundation, which promotes creative and social action among young people nationwide. Mr. Goodman will serve ambassador for the assembly.

Last year, the foundation recognize actor/social activist Danny Glover and "Selma" director Ava DuVernay, among others, with the 2015 Hidden Heroes Award, named after Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney.

Many of the speakers this year will be persons negatively impacted by the 2013 voter restrictions passed by the Republican-led NC General Assembly, and signed by Gov. Pat McCrory.

The entire event will be livestreamed across the nation.

For more information call the NCNAACP office at 919-682-4700, or go to www.naacpsc.org or www.hkonj.com.



SINGER BEYONCE (Cpourtsey NNPA Photo

After Standing Up For Unarmed Police Shooting Victim, Rep. Peter King lashes out at Beyonce

WASHINGTON (AP) - Beyonce's new video "Formation" is "pro-Black Panther" and "anti-cop," says a Republican congressman, who argued Feb. 8 that it perpetuates a lie about the August 2014 shooting in Missouri of an unarmed black man by a white police officer.

"Beyonce may be a gifted entertainer but no one should really care what she thinks about any serious issue confronting our nation," New York Rep. Pete King said in a statement he posted on his Facebook page.

King condemned the video, released by the Grammy-winning singer ahead of her world tour and her performance during halftime of Sunday's Super Bowl. He also complained about the mainstream media's acceptance of the video and her Super Bowl appearance.

Beyonce's publicist had no immediate response to an email request for comment.

In the video, Beyonce is seen atop a police cruiser and there are references to the Black Lives Matter movement. King also complained that the video makes the "ritualistic reference to Michael Brown and Ferguson, Missouri, by featuring a scene of innocent people with their hands raised high above their heads in surrender."

King dismissed the notion that Brown was murdered by police as he was attempting to surrender and said this "fable" was thoroughly discredited.

"In simple language it was and is a lie from beginning to end," the congressman said, arguing that Brown was a criminal who had robbed a convenience store and the officer, Darren Wilson, was exonerated by the local prosecutor and President Barack Obama's Justice Department.

"Yet the big lie continues by Black Lives Matter, by pandering politicians and now by Beyoncé, who gets star billing at the Super Bowl," said King, who added that his father proudly served in the New York Police Department for more than 30 years.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, in an interview on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends," criticized Beyonce's halftime show and references to the Black Panthers. Dancers with the singer had afros and black berets, reminiscent of the 1960s group.

"I thought it was really outrageous that she used it as a platform to attack police officers, who are the people who protect her and protect us," Giuliani said.

Smithsonian opening African-American history museum Sept. 24

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Smithsonian Institution will open the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Sept. 24 in Washington.

Smithsonian chief spokeswoman Linda St. Thomas said Feb. 1 that President Barack Obama, the first black U.S. president, will lead the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

St. Thomas says a weeklong celebration will follow, including an outdoor festival and a period in which the museum on the National Mall will be open for 24 consecutive hours.

The museum has built a collection of 11 exhibits to trace the history of slavery, segregation, civil rights and African-Americans' achievements in the arts, entertainment, sports, the military and the wider culture.

Artifacts on loan from other institutions will also be on display, such as two documents signed by President Abraham Lincoln: the 13th Amendment and the Emancipation Proclamation.



Hayti Heritage Center featured works by local artists for Black History Month. Sharing a moment of laughter from left to right are artists: Sharon Barksdale Worth, Marjorie Freeman, Olivia Gatewood, C. O'Mega and Bill Pearson. See more photos on page 7.

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People Taps Beasley

The Durham Committee on the affairs of Black People (DCABP) has announced that Omar Beasley has been elected to be the fourteenth chair of the 81 year old organization. He replaces former state senator Ralph Hunt, who will be stepping down as head of DCABP later this month.

Beasley, a Durham bail bondsman, has served as first vice chair of the organization for the last two years. He was elected by a vote of the organization's general membership at a meeting Thursday night in the auditorium of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company building.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University, where he played football and ran track, the 44-year-old Beasley said his goals include growing the membership of the organization, energizing the community for the 016 elections, raise the organization's profile in the Durham Community, and to recruit both young and seasoned leaders who are ready and willing to serve.

He has been a candidate for public office in Durham, and has served on a number of boards and commissions and other organizations



OMAR BEASLEY

here, including the city's Recreation Advisory Committee, the Durham County Memorial Stadium Authority, and Kids Voting Durham. He is also chairman of the board and a coach of the Bull City Express Track Club.

Beasley and his wife Tanisha have three children. He will officially take office and be sworn in at DCABP's annual meeting on February 21 at Community Baptist Church. He will serve one remaining year of Hunt's term, and will be eligible to stand for re-election for a two year term along with the organization's other officers when his term ends.

Register To Vote