



# *Martin's International*

**“Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture”**

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**BREAKING NEWS!**

For Immediate release

## **Ephraim Martin wants Holiday, Street & Monument for DuSable, Chicago's Founding Father. Revamp US Postal ZIP Code System ...Road to end Systemic Racism! BLACK HEROES MATTER**

(Chicago, July 6, 2020):

Some fifty organizations, primarily of the African Diaspora, headed by Jamaican-born Activist, Ephraim Martin, Martin's International Foundation President, held a rally and march downtown Chicago on Independence Day, Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> on Chicago's popular Magnificent Mile, 401 North Michigan Avenue.

The peaceful rally called for a city holiday, major monument and for Lake Shore Drive to be renamed Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Drive in honor of Chicago's Founding Father, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Black Caribbean man from the country of Haiti.

Mr. Martin and the supporting organizations proposed an eight - point plan to honor DuSable and to end Systemic Racism, which he wants to be added to the elected officials' conversations.

Under the Banner of Black Heroes Matter, below is what Mr. Martin, Alderman David Moore and the other organizations are demanding for the Founding Father and moving toward ERacism.

“This city's first permanent resident and settler, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a **Black man from Haiti founded Chicago in 1779**. Lake Shore Drive and Columbus Drive, both run north-south through the territory where DuSable first arrived and set-up a prosperous fur trading post and farm, on land which was later to become Chicago. Chicagoans will be most happy when the full stretch of Lake Shore Drive from 5700 N. Hollywood to Marquette Drive and Jeffery Drive to the south, **as earlier proposed by Alderman David Moore** and others in the Chicago City Council, is **named DuSable Drive!**”

There is no way we should have gone **240 years without a City Holiday, a main Street, and a major Monument in honor of the father of this great city, called Chicago!**”

“There are others who had little or nothing to do with the founding of this city, who are enjoying the honor of this sweet home Chicago!

**Yes! It is only because of the color of his black Haitian skin, that Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable has yet to receive his full reward in history!”**

So, to Madam **Mayor Lightfoot and the Chicago City Council, we are waiting on you to come through for DuSable!”** Mr. Martin concluded.

Speaking at the rally also, **17<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman David Moore** said he is pressing the issue to more fully honor DuSable in city council.

“There’s no way we can continue to say Chicago is one of the greatest cities when we cannot recognize the man fully who founded Chicago,” Moore said.

**The Alderman noted Mayor Lori Lightfoot is not opposed to the idea to honor DuSable with a monument, street and holiday** and said he is optimistic.

Multiple Chicago Music Awards Poet winner, Blaq Ice, and Caribbean culture and carnival dance groups, Team Jamaica and Team Bad were among the performers. Rev. Thomas Savage of the Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago acknowledged the more than forty organizations in support of DuSable’s honors.

In the meantime, to guarantee a Monument no less than 25th feet and to achieve our objectives for Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, there is a GoFundMe and a petition drive online that needs your support. Please visit [www.martinsinternational.com](http://www.martinsinternational.com) to support the major Monument for DuSable. Click the GoFundMe page link [https://www.gofundme.com/f/black-hero-monument-for-jean-baptiste-p-dusable?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link-tip](https://www.gofundme.com/f/black-hero-monument-for-jean-baptiste-p-dusable?utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link-tip) and sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-chicago-call-for-dusable-day-a-holiday-street-monument-for-jean-baptiste-point-dusable> to support the Holiday and Street for the Founding Father

Among the other elected officials and organizations attending the rally/march were: Hon. Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Alderman David Moore, Eric Blome -Figurative Art Studio LLC, who displayed a dramatic eight-foot, blue statue of DuSable’s Head, WVON 1690 AM Radio, Star Planet TV, Deon Lopez, The Caribbean Association of Midwest America, Clyde Banks-UNIA, Mr. Olivier Kamazi, Ali Crawford-Team BAD, African Global Chamber of Commerce, The State of the African Diaspora, Patricia Gordon- Team Jamaica, Bantu Inc Organization, Vernon Lloyd- Music Box Foundation, Eric Sexton- Dominion Music Group, Blaq Ice-P.O.E.T., Ghana National Council, Harris Business Enterprise/Love, Truth and Peace Foundation, Projectborn Elitemind LLC., The State of the African Diaspora, AFRICA-USA Today Magazine, Stanmorr Sports Inc., African Diaspora Sixth Region Association of Illinois, Valerie Hill PR Consultant, and Creative Tea Café/Tea FDS, among others.

The one-mile march started at DuSable Bridge, by the river where DuSable arrived and settled, then south on Michigan Avenue to East Monroe to Columbus Drive at Grant Park, where the marchers joined with Black Lives/Black Skaters Matter protesters in a massive rally, in which Martin again repeated his call for DuSable’s holiday, street, monument an end to systemic racism, and more.

#### SYSTEMIC RACISM:

“For decades, Black and Brown people have been systematically discriminated against while seeking employment because of where they live. Employers, insurers, banks, educational institutions have routinely determined individuals’ race or national origin by their zip codes resulting in Black and Brown people being denied a full and fair examination of their applications.

Therefore, we propose these solutions:

1. The U.S. Postal zip code must be revamped or scrambled! Example in Chicago zip code 60628 which is marked red in the system should now be 60611, 60644 (red) should now be 60602 and 60636 (red) should be 60610. These are just examples to confuse the **Powers** who have **locked** in people in **codes red** to be discriminated against.  
However, the system will try to work its way around these codes; So here are the ultimate answers.
2. State by State: no longer should a person applying for a loan or a job be required to **give their street address or their zip code**. Starting with our own State, Illinois. The only information they need to give for a job, a bank loan or for any borrowings, must be:  
**Only Your name, email address, telephone number, city and state, should be given, period!**  
We are talking about ending systemic racism.
3. Only, after, **the loan is approved and signed** when you pick up your check or when the money is wired and transferred to your account, **should your street address and zip code be revealed**.
4. **For job hiring**. Only after your **first paycheck is received, should your street address and zip code** be given. We are talking about ending systemic racism  
These are just partial answers to ending systemic racism in America (to be continued...).
5. **As for police abuse**. The family of a **victim who is abused or killed by police must have the Option through their attorney to seek an independent Prosecutor or to obtain a summons to arrest the accused officer or officers**, until the case can be fully investigated.
6. **Police Forces** throughout the nation must **fairly reflect their city's population**. Example, If Chicago's **population is 30 percent African American and 25 percent Latinx and other minorities**, its force should reflect the same.  
If the current makeup is not there yet; Here is how we will get there.
7. All future hiring's to Chicago Police Department must only be African American or minority, until that balance is realized.
8. Further, **all police officers must live in the city they serve**. If not, they should **be fired immediately!**

**Those are just some of our current thoughts and proposals to add to the conversation of ending systemic racism in America.**

**For more information to become a Monument and/or other sponsor, contact: Martin's International Foundation at [www.martinsinternational.com](http://www.martinsinternational.com), email [howaboutthatblog@gmail.com](mailto:howaboutthatblog@gmail.com), or call 877/973-4423. For press inquiries contact Valerie Hill at (312) 513-4695 or [Vhill17211@yahoo.com](mailto:Vhill17211@yahoo.com) #martinsinternational, #dusableholiday, #duSablemonument, #dusabledrive, #howaboutthat.**

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**ABOUT EPHRAIM MARTIN:** Since 1982, using reggae music as an art form and a vehicle of expression of the voiceless peoples of the world, for an end to apartheid, the freedom of Nelson Mandela and for freedom and democracy in the world, to the fight to end systemic racism. The former photojournalist and now world music special events organizer/activist, Ephraim Martin - Martin's International Foundation has been working in the forefront of the movement for more than 38 years to bring forth meaningful and equitable change to the Black and other communities of the diaspora.