



Rock Hill, SC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Celebrate Emancipation at Juneteenth Rock Hill 2017**

*Rock Hill's Juneteenth celebration committee will host the annual two-day event with cultural events, food truck Friday and a freedom fest*

ROCK HILL, SC – The Juneteenth Rock Hill Celebration committee will kickoff [Juneteenth Rock Hill 2017](#) on June 8 & 10 with cultural event titled, *A Celebration of Freedom* at the [York County Library](#) (main campus) located at 138 E. Black St., Rock Hill. The celebration will continue on Friday, June 16 with a Food Truck Friday event at Fountain Park, and a Freedom Fest finale on Saturday, June 17 on the grounds of Friendship College and Mt. Prospect Baptist Church at 339 West Black St., Rock Hill, SC 29731. Times are 5 p.m. on June 8, 2 p.m. on June 10, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. on June 16 and 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on June 17. This year's Juneteenth Rock Hill events will again focus on a time of reflection, renewal and pride of African American culture, history and customs. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States that celebrates the history, customs and cultures of African Americans.

On Thursday, June 8 at 5 p.m. author, storyteller and Juneteenth Rock Hill President Carlo Dawson will present *Lil' Lilly Ann's Story of Jubilee: A Celebration of Freedom* cultural art-based event at the York County Library (Rock Hill campus). Lil' Lilly Ann, played by Carlo L' Chelle Dawson, will share her story of jubilee at the very first Juneteenth celebration. Attendees will also engage in childhood songs, games, and interact with artifacts, such as a wash basin, wash board and more. There will be a second cultural event presented by Mrs. Dawson on Saturday, June 10 at 2 p.m. at the library titled, *On the Front Porch with Mama Millie*. In this performance attendees will listen to Mama Millie share Brer-Rabbit Tales and other African American folklore through interactive play in honor of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth Rock Hill activities will continue on Friday, June 16 with the City of Rock Hill's [Food Truck Friday](#) at [Fountain Park](#). Activities will be 6 – 10 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Mellogroove, Christopher "CJ" Johnson and Mufukadance Works. The featured entertainment will be The Fantasy Band, another local fan favorite. The finale will take place on Saturday, June 17 at Friendship College and Mt. Prospect Baptist Church from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. with the Freedom Fest Cookout. Activities on Saturday will include a free cookout featuring stage entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, prizes,

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children's games/activities and a historic carriage presentation and buggy rides by local historic interpreters Wali Cathcart and James Hart. At the children's corner, kids will receive a passport to travel through history and complete arts-based activities including mask-making and decoration, African drum/dance and quilt-making – to name a few. They will also hear storytelling and participate in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) corner where they will decorate products and learn about African American scientists, engineers and visit a book display of local authors. The kids will also receive a Juneteenth children's book titled, *Why We Celebrate: The Rich Legacy of Juneteenth* by Carlo L' Chelle Dawson.

The Juneteenth Rock Hill celebration committee will also announce the Ann Cain Scholarship Award winner. The Ann Cain Scholarship was created by the Juneteenth Rock Hill celebration board in tribute to Dr. Ann Cain, who was a community leader, activists and an educator. The scholarship is a one-time scholarship for a high school senior graduating in June of the current school year.



*Photo caption: Celebrating Juneteenth Rock Hill, attendees dance and play drums. For more information on how to become a performer, vendor or volunteer for this year's celebration visit [www.juneteenthrockhill.com](http://www.juneteenthrockhill.com) or email [juneteenthrockhill@gmail.com](mailto:juneteenthrockhill@gmail.com).*

*[Juneteenth Rock Hill Incorporated](#) is a 501c3 organization comprised of community leaders and supporters who came together to organize and implement a multi-faceted annual celebration of historical, charitable and educational events observing the customs and cultures of African Americans. Juneteenth Rock Hill presents a weekend of celebration with speakers, education, live entertainment, family gatherings, food and a time of reflection and rejoicing to commemorate Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated memorial of the ending of slavery in the US.*

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