



CITY OF TERRE HAUTE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downtown Black History Month Banners Get a Meaningful Upgrade

Terre Haute, IN – The City of Terre Haute Human Relations Commission is excited to announce an update to the iconic Black History Month street banners. Starting December 9, 2024, through January 3, 2025, the Commission will be accepting nominations for new individuals to feature on these banners.

Originally introduced in the early 2000s, the banners celebrated Black individuals from Terre Haute's history who made significant contributions to the community. Displayed each February in honor of Black History Month, these banners have aged over time, prompting a revitalization effort to preserve their legacy and expand their impact.

Key Initiatives of the Black History Month Banner Project:

1. Preserving History

The original banners will be retired and digitized, allowing them to be shared online for public viewing and educational purposes. This ensures the stories they tell remain accessible while protecting the physical artifacts from further damage.

2. Highlighting New Stories

A newly formed committee will oversee an annual nomination process, selecting a few new individuals each year to honor. This effort aims to recognize more voices and achievements from Terre Haute's Black community.

3. Creating Durable New Banners

High-quality vinyl banners will be designed to feature both beloved figures from the original series and the newly selected honorees. These durable materials are expected to preserve the display for decades to come.

Mayor Brandon Sakbun shared his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "I commend the Human Relations Commission for revitalizing the Black History Month Banner program. Honoring our city's history and those who have shaped our community is vital. I encourage everyone to submit nominations and join us in celebrating these remarkable individuals each February."

To nominate someone for recognition, visit the Human Relations Commission webpage at <https://www.terrehaute.in.gov/departments/human/black-history-month-banners>.



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About the Human Relations Commission

The Human Relations Commission is an entity of the City of Terre Haute whose mission is to promote better human relations in Terre Haute and help build a vibrant, thriving, and unified by community by working to transform injustice into equity, inaccessibility into opportunity, and intolerance into acceptance and belonging.