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MLK March route revised in Chiefland

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 20, 2018 at 2:08 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- The first march in Chiefland ever to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March is set for the holiday named in his honor -- on Jan. 21. The route has changed since its inception.

Pastor Alex Christian of First United Methodist Church of Chiefland stands at the podium as Alex Christian of First United Methodist Church of Chiefland, Pastor Lance Hayes of Potter House Exalting of Chiefland



stands near to him Tuesday evening (Nov. 12) when the men succeeded in starting the effort required for a march to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 21 in Chiefland.

After the meeting Nov. 12 meeting, some of the leaders seeking to make the Dr.



Martin Luther King Jr. March become a reality in Chiefland are seen here. They are (from left) Pastor Alex Christian of First United Methodist Church of Chiefland, Pastor Lance Hayes of Potter House Exalting of Chiefland, Minnie Hayes of Potter House Exalting of Chiefland and

Robert Wells, one of the founders of the Levy County Prevention Coalition.

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Pastor Alex Christian of First United Methodist Church of Chiefland, Pastor Lance Hayes of Potter House Exalting of Chiefland and Robert Wells, one of the founders of the Levy County Prevention Coalition as well as a counselor with Meridian Behavioral Health Inc., all spoke in favor of conducting the first-ever Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Chiefland on Jan. 21, 2019 – Martin Luther King Day.

City Commissioner Donald Lawrence made a motion, seconded by City Commissioner Tim West, to allow the march on U.S. 19 in Chiefland on Jan. 21.

Voting in favor of that motion were Lawrence, West, Mayor Betty Walker and Vice Mayor Chris Jones. Chiefland City Commissioner Rollin Hudson was absent that Tuesday night. At a subsequent meeting Commissioner Hudson said he thought the meeting had been cancelled due to Nov. 12 being the national holiday for Veterans Day this year, due to Nov. 11 being on a Sunday.

After the Chiefland City Council voted Nov. 12 to approve this march that is historic for that municipality, there was discussion among organizers. As a result, the route was revised.

The now firm plan for the march shows it starting at 11 a.m. on Jan. 21 at the parking lot for The Gathering Table Restaurant. This Martin Luther King March will go southbound from the parking lot on Main Street (U.S. Highway 19) and Northeast Second Avenue to the Chiefland City Park known as "Trailhead Park" on Southwest Second Avenue -- on the west side of U.S. 19 -- just north of The Deer Camp.

Chiefland City Manager Mary Ellzey on Thursday (Dec. 20) confirmed the revised route. Ellzey said U.S. 19 will be closed to the north of the starting point, however, due to the need to detour U.S. 19 traffic around this march.

Pastor Christian said after the march there is a relatively short program scheduled at the park to honor the memory and accomplishments of Dr. King, and the reverend anticipates it concluding at 1 p.m.

As shown in the story, photos and three minutes of video clips that can be seen by clicking [HERE](#), there was a very successful 13th Annual MLK Parade and Ceremony in Cross City (Dixie County) in January of 2018.

Dixie County and Cross City have established a tradition for celebrating Dr. King's efforts to protect civil rights for all Americans, as well as to bridge any divisiveness between any sets of human beings.