



PARTICIPANT MARSHALLING PACKET – CHANGE 1

**Monday, January 19, 2026
8:30 AM – 12:00 AM**

Parade Staff Contact Information

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2026 MLK Parade

January 1, 2026

Dear Parade Participants,

We are excited to have your unit in this year's Martin Luther King Jr., I Parade presented by The NAACP DeKalb County Branch. The City of Stonecrest, the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, the New Black Wall Street, and Privi are the sponsor of this year's parade. The NAACP is the largest and most influential civil rights organization in the nation. The vital work we do advancing political, educational, social, and economic equality for Black people in the United States is essential to our existence.

Kickoff of the Parade is scheduled for 10:00 AM, organizations will be allowed to enter the staging area at 8:30 AM on Monday, January 19, 2026. **The arrival of your organization should be no later than 9:00 AM.** Please note that all participants will need to check in upon arrival. Check-in will be located at the New Black Wall Street.

Using MARTA to travel to the parade is recommended. Parking at Privi is the official parking area for parade participants. There will be a shuttle bus available to take you to the parade staging area (New Black Wall Street). The NAACP is not responsible for any vehicles left at these facilities.

All persons participating in the parade are asked to have visible signs honoring Dr. King. The sign(s) should say phrases honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., such as "Happy Birthday, Dr. King," "MLK Jr. Honoring his legacy and dream," or "Dr. King, the Power of your dream lives on in all of us," etc. The signs can be made on a standard poster board that is 22 inches high/28 inches wide. Consider using Best Print & Design, 4287-B Snapfinger Woods Dr., Decatur, phone 404 288-5595 for sign printing at a reasonable price.

No objects shall be thrown from any vehicle or trailer during the parade. Participants who wish to provide giveaways shall have walkers along the edge of the sidewalk to hand out the giveaways. Giveaways shall be handed to individual spectators by the walkers and shall not be thrown into any spectator areas. Participants are jointly and exclusively responsible for the safety and compliance of every vehicle and trailer driven, used and/or included in the parade and must perform safety checks of such vehicles and trailers prior to and throughout the parade.

The DeKalb NAACP appreciates your cooperation as you work with us to make the 2026 DeKalb County Parade a safe and notable tribute to Dr. King illustrating in all messaging the "Power of Us". If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (404) 241-8006.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Monday, January 19, 2026 in Stonecrest, Georgia.

Sincerely,

Nakhia Hill

Nakhia Hill
Parade Chair

GENERAL INFORMATION

The NAACP Parade Staff has complete and final authority over your unit's conduct in the staging area and along the parade route. Failure to obey the City of Stonecrest Police or the NAACP Parade Staff will be cause for ejection from this parade and future parades.

1. **Start Time:** The staging area opens at 8:30 AM; Monday, January 19, 2026.
All organizations must arrive by 8:30 AM.
The parade will step off at 10:00 AM
2. **Formation:** See formation instructions on Diagram #2.
3. **Parade Route:** The parade starts at New Black Wall Street:
 - Left on Mall Parkway
 - Right on Stonecrest Square
 - Left on Mall Ring Road
 - End in Front of Privi
4. **Restrictions:**
 - Participating in the parade in no way releases anyone from the Laws and Regulations of the City of Stonecrest.
 - Halting or delays are strictly prohibited.
 - Maximum height of equipment not to exceed 12 feet.
 - Buses and cars to be used for pick-up after the parade should park at unless instructed otherwise. The NAACP Dekalb is not responsible for cost associated with parking.
 - If additional space is required for the formation of a specific position/group, an area will be assigned by the parade chairman the morning of the event.
 - Absolutely **NO** personal or corporate signage is permitted on vehicles without NAACP Parade Staff authorization. No exceptions.
5. **Parking Plan:**
 - Only vehicles in the parade and Parade Staff will be allowed to park in the Staging Area. Vehicles not in the parade should drop participants off at the staging area and park at Privi. There will be a shuttle bus (see schedule) on site to carry participants back to the staging area or along the parade route.
 - Buses are asked to drop of band members at the staging area and park at Privi. Band members will follow the directions of Parade Band Coordinators for formations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE PARADE

- ❑ There are two ways to register for the parade - via the NAACP website info@naacpdekalb.org or via the QR Code on the flyer.
- ❑ A member of each organization registering to participate in the parade must be a verified member of the NAACP. Registration fee is \$20; non-profit organizations do not have to pay the registration fee (donations are welcomed).
- ❑ When registering for the parade please complete the Interest Form. A Waiver of Liability form will be sent to each organization once an interest form and membership is verified. Please bring the Waiver of Liability form to the parade. The form will be collected prior to the parade.
- ❑ Upon receipt of the Interest form, organizations will be assigned to one of four groups. Organizations will be notified of their Group assignment via email.

MARTA IS SMARTER WHEN COMING TO THE PARADE

- ❑ Buses 86, 111, and 116 leave from Indian Creek Train Station enroute to Stonecrest Mall.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS will be available on-site during the entire parade. Medical Staff are connected to parade staff and volunteers should an emergency arise. Please notify parade staff ASAP for assistance in the event of an emergency.

RESTROOM FACILITIES

Restrooms are located at New Black Wall Street and Privi. The Mall at Stonecrest opens at 11:00AM

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Though unlikely, the MLK Parade will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. No refunds will be given to paying units. Inclement weather is defined generally as:

- Persistent rain (not a passing shower), with the threat of lightning
- Flood
- Heavy snow
- Tornado
- Other Acts of God

For questions regarding the weather on parade day, all parade participants and volunteers are asked to call the (404) 241-8006 for the most up-to-date information.

Please note: If the Parade is canceled, please understand it is for the safety of the fans, staff, volunteers, and all participants.

PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ❑ **Parade participants (including, but not limited to signage, costumes, float, or unit design, and played or performed audio, spoken word or music, and/or materials that may be provided for distribution) may not reflect, support, or oppose any topics that are political or divisive in nature, including political affiliation, race, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation. The NAACP Parade Staff reserves the right to prohibit any organization from participating in the parade that violates these guidelines.**
- ❑ **The throwing of any object from a float or any other vehicle is strictly prohibited** by the City of Stonecrest and the NAACP Dekalb. Throwing objects causes dangerous situations as children run to the street to collect items and run the risk of not being seen by drivers and participants. You may hand them out along the route from the curbs.
- ❑ **All movement must be in a continuous forward motion.**
- ❑ **All participants are encouraged to dress in a costume or uniform.** Uniforms are great brand recognition for your organization. If your group does not have official uniforms, please be similarly dressed.
- ❑ **ALL components of a parade entry MUST be approved by the NAACP Parade Staff (including any vehicles, walkers, sound equipment, etc.). Any changes or add-ons also need to be approved by the Parade Staff, including trailers.**
- ❑ **All entries must follow height and width restrictions.** There are definite boundaries along the parade route that can hinder an oversized vehicle from making its way down the entire route. The maximum height of equipment should not exceed 12 feet in order to clear overhead traffic signals, wires, and trees. The maximum width of the parade route is 34 feet.
- ❑ **Participation in the parade in no way releases anyone from observing the City of Stonecrest laws and regulations.**
- ❑ **The parade staff reserves the right to remove any organization from the parade route at any given time.**
- ❑ **The use of firearms, fireworks, and confetti are prohibited – this includes caps.**
- ❑ **All animal units are responsible for cleaning up after their animals in all areas; staging, parade route, etc.**
- ❑ **Waivers:** A waiver for each participant must be on file with the NAACP Dekalb County prior to participation in the parade. Please contact Latasha Broden or Nakhia Hill if you have not filled out a waiver.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE MLK PARADE**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

PLEASE USE THIS ROUTE ONLY

BAND BUS DIRECTIONS

Buses will drop off and go to designated parking at Privi.

Band Participating in Parade

Traveling East on I-20

Exit 74 (Evans Mills Road/Lithonia Industrial Blvd) from I-20 Eastbound. Turn right onto Evans Mills Road. Turn left onto Mall Parkway. Address for staging area is 8109 Mall Parkway (New Plack Wall Street) and unload at the staging area. Volunteers will direct you once in the staging area. Buses are to park at Privi Stonecrest, 8020 Mall Parkway.

Traveling West on I-20

Exit 74 (Evans Mills Road/Lithonia Industrial Blvd) from I-75/85 Westbound. Turn left onto Evans Mills Road. Turn left onto Mall Parkway. Address for staging area is 8109 Mall Parkway (New Black Wall Street) and unload at the staging area. Volunteers will direct you once in the staging area. Buses are to park at Privi Stonecrest, 8020 Mall Parkway.

Staging Area Address for GPS: 8109 Mall Parkway, Stonecrest, Georgia 30038

PARADE PARTICIPANTS DIRECTIONS

(Floats, Vehicles, Animal Groups, Dance Groups, Etc.)

Specialty Units Participating in Parade

Traveling East on I-20

Exit 74 (Evans Mills Road/Lithonia Industrial Blvd) from I-20 Eastbound. Turn right onto Evans Mills Road. Turn left onto Mall Parkway. Address for staging area is 8109 Mall Parkway (New Plack Wall Street) and unload at the staging area. Volunteers will direct you once in the staging area. Buses are to park at Privi.

Traveling West on I-20

Exit 74 (Evans Mills Road/Lithonia Industrial Blvd) from I-20 Westbound. Turn left onto Evans Mills Road. Turn left onto Mall Parkway. Address for staging area is 8109 Mall Parkway (New Black Wall Street) and unload at the staging area. Volunteers will direct you once in the staging area.

Staging Area Address for GPS: 8109 Mall Parkway, Stonecrest, Georgia 30038

Important Transportation Note

****PLEASE USE THIS ROUTE ONLY DUE TO ROAD CLOSURES IN AND AROUND THE STAGING AREA****

The NAACP Dekalb Parade Staff suggests participants utilize MARTA for event day transportation. Participants may park private vehicles at one of the available pay lots in the area. The NAACP Dekalb County is not responsible for the cost associated with parking at these lots.

PARADE CHECK-IN INFORMATION

PARADE CHECK-IN All vehicles and walkers should be assembled together prior to checking in. Volunteers (Traffic Control) will be directing vehicles off of Mall Parkway into the staging area. There will be additional volunteers (Entrance Coordinators) who will confirm each participant's Group assignment. Vehicle will proceed to Group's location. If you are a volunteer, proceed to the staff parking. Volunteer packets will be available at the January 15, 2026 in-person meeting. There will also be a table inside the building where you will check in and receive your volunteer packet based on your volunteer position. This station will open will be open at 8:00 AM. If you have any questions or concerns, please find one of our volunteers who has on a yellow Safety Vest.

Bands/Organizations/Dance Units

In the proceeding pages, you will find the staging area instructions and area maps. The parade staging will be divided into four (4) Groups and the staff parking. Please follow the directions to your staging area. Bands will be dropped off at the designated location of Mall Parkway and then proceed to the Privi Stonecrest for parking.

The arrival of your unit should be no later than 9:00 AM.

Upon arriving at the parade, please enter through the designated entrance point on Mall Parkway. Once checked in, parade participants will give you instructions on how you will integrate into the parade lineup.

Important:

If your unit is bringing any additional equipment vehicles (i.e. vans, trucks), please inform the NAACP staff when you register.

Diagram 1



PARADE STAGING AREA

Parade Participants (Vehicles, Walkers, Etc.) will line up in parade order in the staging area in accordance with Diagram #2 below. Each Group will have a Staging Area Coordinator and three Volunteers to ensure participants are lined up correctly. Groups will be notified via email as to what group they are in. Again, parade participants are asked to assemble as an organization before going into the staging area.

Diagram 2

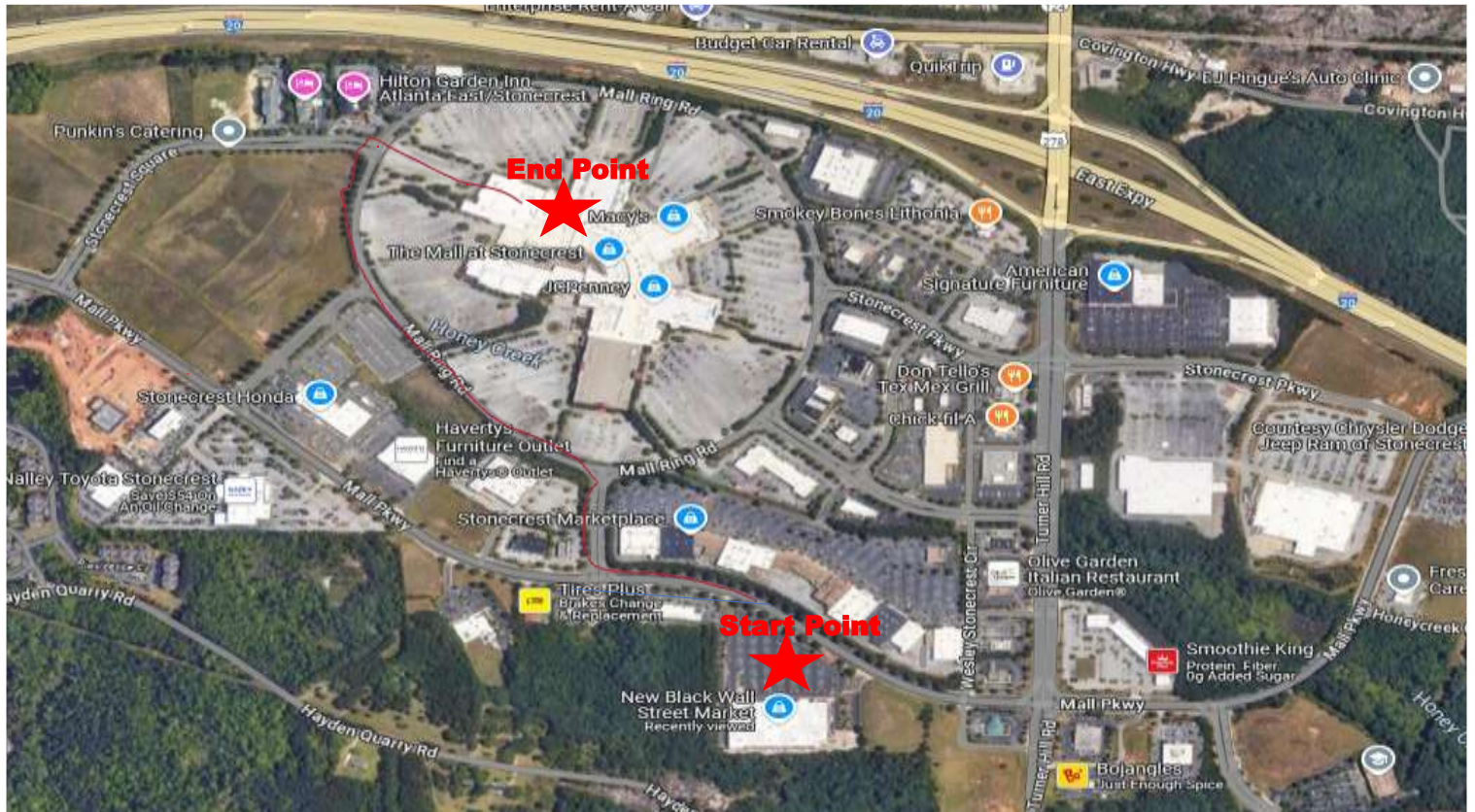


Schedule of Events – MLK Parade Day

- 8:30 AM** – Participant Arrival
- 8:45 AM** – Road Closures Begin
- 9:45 AM** – Rally of Unity
- 10:00 AM** – Parade Starts from New Black Wall Street
- By 11:30 AM** – Parade Concludes at Privi
- 11:30 AM** – Collective Band Serenade: *Happy Birthday* Tribute to Stevie Wonder
- 11:45 AM** – Participants Proceed Inside Privi to Explore Vendor & Community Information Booths

PARADE ROUTE

Diagram 3



The Parade starts at New Black Wall Street:

- Left on Mall Parkway
- Right on Stonecrest Square
- Left on Mall Ring Road
- Parade Ends in Front of Privi

MARTA MAP

Buses 86, 111, and 116 leave from Indian Creek Train Station enroute to Stonecrest Mall.

INSIDER TIPS

- Use the MARTA on the Go App for real-time train arrivals. Trains are every 20 minutes on Saturdays.
- Free park and ride lots are available at many rail stations around the city. The best places to park that don't require a train transfer is at the H.E. Holmes MARTA station (near I-285 West) or the Inman Park and Edgewood/Candler Park MARTA stations on the east side of Atlanta.
- The regular MARTA fare is \$2.50 for a one-way trip on trains and buses. You can pay exact cash, but only on buses, otherwise, fare must be added to a reloadable Breeze Card (\$2) or a \$1 disposable paper ticket. You can purchase the fare card or ticket, along with fare, at all MARTA rail stations or online.
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2026 NAACP DEKALB MLK JR. DAY PARADE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Event Information

- **When is the parade?** Monday, January 19, 2026
- **What time does the parade begin?** The parade will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.
- **What is the theme for 2026?** “The Power of Us: Connecting Communities, Igniting Change.” The theme honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream of unity, shared responsibility, and collective progress.
- **Who is the Grand Marshal?** We are honored to announce Greg Street, legendary radio personality, philanthropist, and community advocate, as the 2026 MLK Jr. Parade Grand Marshal.

Street Closures & Arrival Times

- **When will streets be closed?** Parade route streets will begin closing at 8:45 a.m.
- **What time should spectators arrive?** All spectators are strongly encouraged to arrive by 9:00 a.m. to allow time for parking and to secure viewing areas before street closures.

Parking & Transportation

- **Where should spectators park?** Spectators should park at Privi at Stonecrest Mall and either: - Walk to the parade route along Mall Parkway, or- Take the Parade Transportation Shuttle from Privi to designated parade access points.
- **Who may park at New Black Wall Street?** Only registered parade participants and volunteers are permitted to park at New Black Wall Street. Transportation for participants:- Participants will park at New Black Wall Street for parade lineup. - At the conclusion of the parade, transportation will be provided from Privi back to New Black Wall Street.

Volunteers & Participants

- Participants register online at www.naacpdekalb.org using the link or QR code on the flyer. A member of each organization registering to participate in the parade must be a verified member of the NAACP. Registration fee is \$20; non-profit organizations do not have to pay the registration fee (donations are welcomed). Please confirm that at least one member of your organization or yourself (if marching alone) is up-to-date with NAACP DeKalb Membership by emailing info@naacpdekalb.org
- **What time should volunteers report?** All volunteers must report by 8:30 a.m. at New Black Wall Street, where the parade will begin.
- **Is there a rally before the parade?** Yes. A 10-minute rally will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of New Black Wall Street for all registered participants.

Refreshments & Wellness Stations

- **Will refreshments be provided?** Yes. To support our volunteers and participants: - Hot cocoa, water, granola bars, and donuts will be available at the start of the parade inside New Black Wall Street (look for posted signs). - Water and hot cocoa (weather-dependent) will be available: - Halfway along the parade route - At the end of the parade at Privi Stonecrest.

Vendors

- **Where can vendors set up?** Vendors are permitted to set up at Privi at Stonecrest Mall only.
- **How do vendors register?** Vendor registration must be completed using the QR code available at: www.naacpdekalb.org

Additional Questions

For additional information, volunteer inquiries, or registration questions, please visit www.naacpdekalb.org or contact the NAACP DeKalb County Branch directly by phone 404-241-8006 or email at education@naacpdekalb.org We look forward to celebrating together as one community — honoring Dr. King’s legacy through service, unity, and action