



Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
1701 Morton Ave.
Los Angeles Ca 90026
213 400 9155

January 6, 2015

Dear CORE leaders,

Six years ago, a number of community organizers, peace activists, and human rights advocates from throughout the Los Angeles area came together to form the Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles (at that time known as the Martin Luther King Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace --- the name itself sketching in broad outline some of the essential issues that brought us together.)

Our Coalition has participated in the Kingdom Day March in the past, but we have had serious concerns about the extremely high fees charged to groups participating in the parades and the limitations placed on the number of participants in contingents. It has always been our feeling that some provision needs to be made that would allow more community people at large to participate in the parades to show their appreciation and respect to Dr. King and the many contributions he

made to improving the lives and conditions of poor and oppressed people and communities.

It has always been the policy of the MLK Coalition to keep participation in our contingents in the parades open to all community people who wish to join us in upholding the tradition of Dr. King's commitment to pushing forward the justice struggles of the day. None of our member or supporting groups operate on a for-profit basis. Most of our groups are self-funded self-help groups that are simply working for the up-lift of our communities.

The MLK Coalition has joined hands with a national coalition of students and young people known as The 4-Mile March. The 4-Mile March Coalition is organizing marches and actions in over 20 cities across the United States on Dr. King's birthday to demand an end to police violence and murders of African American men.

The mission of the 4 Mile March is two-fold: to bring awareness to the epidemic of racial profiling and police brutality in our country, and to honor all those who have been injured or died as a result of police violence.

The current upsurge of community activism against police violence and abuse has reached the highest pitch in American history in recent weeks. Our discussions with younger activists has convinced us that the Kingdom Day Parade is in fact the most appropriate home for the local 4 Mile March. By marching once again with the Kingdom Day Parade, we believe that our entire community can show our collective love and respect for the thousands of Black victims of police violence, as well as for their families and loved ones on Dr. King's birthday.

As the principal sponsor of the Kingdom Day Parade, we call upon CORE to demonstrate this love and respect by opening up the march to much greater community participation this year. Therefore, we are asking that CORE and the parade organizers do at least as much as the sponsors and organizers of the Rose Parade have done for the past three years, which is to provide for mass community participation in the parade --- at no charge --- at the end of the parade. We believe that it is time for the Kingdom Day Parade to reflect more fully the substance and tradition of Dr. King's contributions to the on-going struggles for equality, justice and peace.

The MLK Coalition is joined in this request by: (in formation)

Interdenominational Communities United for Justice and Peace, Topanga Peace Alliance, Veterans for Peace Los Angeles, Youth Justice Coalition, Los Angeles Anti-Eviction Campaign, Anti Racist Action, L.A. Community Action Network (LA CAN), Tar Sands Action, Comite Frente Latino por Ayotzinapa, Americans for Democratic Action, , National Lawyers Guild LA, Neighbors for Change, Code Pink, March Forward, Jewish Voice for Peace, Healthcare for All LA Chapter, LA Laborfest, School of the America's Watch LA, Revolutionary Poets Brigade, Food and Water Watch, Colectivo Guatemalteco, Occupy Fights Foreclosure, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, People Organized for Westside Renewal, , Occupy Venice, International Action Center, Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains (PDSMM), Coalition for Community Control Over The Police , the WE Project, Café Intifada, LA Workers Assembly, LA Jews For Peace, ANSWER Coalition, , National Association of Social Workers/Social Action Social Justice Council, Palisadians for Peace.

Given the limitation of time, we would like to meet with you regarding this issue as quickly as possible, but no later than Monday, Jan.12th 2015.

Please contact Kwazi Nkrumah kwazinkrumah@aol.com 213 400 9155 to arrange a time for the meeting.

Thank you,

Kwazi Nkrumah: Co-Chair, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

Julie Levine: Co-Chair, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

For the Steering Committee of the Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater L. A.