



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2018

CONTACT:

Marcey Wright

Coordinator of Public Relations & Media

marcey.wright@memphistn.gov

901.463.3055

MLK50 Naturalization Ceremonies and Informational Fair to Mark New Start for New Citizens

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – To honor Dr. King and the 1968 “I AM A MAN” sanitation strikers, Memphis Public Libraries will host two **Naturalization Ceremonies** on **Friday, Jan. 12, 2018** at the **Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library** (3030 Poplar Ave., meeting rooms A – C). During the **first ceremony**, from **11 a.m. – noon**, 100 candidates representing 36 countries worldwide will become naturalized U.S. citizens. For the **second ceremony**, **1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**, 100 more candidates representing 38 countries will also join the “Dream” that Dr. King gave his life to accomplish 50 years ago.

New this year, an **Informational Fair** will follow the ceremonies to connect citizens and their families to helpful resources and community services, like the Friends of the Library, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), Catholic Charities, Literacy Mid-South, Hope Works, *Latino Memphis*, League of Women Voters, information referral service LINC / 2-1-1, and more.

“We always anticipate the energy and excitement that fills the Library during these naturalization ceremonies. We want new citizens to know that they can #StartHere at Memphis Public Libraries for all of their informational and community resource needs,” said Director of Libraries Keenon McCloy, who is keynote speaker for the first ceremony. Lynuel W. Dennis, field office director for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), will serve as keynote speaker for the second ceremony.

“As part of MLK50 commemorations happening throughout the city, these naturalization ceremonies are extra special,” commented Adult Services Coordinator Wang-Ying Glasgow, who is also a naturalized citizen. “The value-added informational fair will help to mark this special occasion and will offer insight into the rights and civic responsibilities of American citizens.”

This event is hosted in partnership with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Daughters of the American Revolution. For more information about the MLK50 Naturalization Ceremonies at Central Library, call (901) 415-2709.

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ABOUT MEMPHIS PUBLIC LIBRARIES’ FDLP

Memphis Public Libraries have been a Selective Federal Depository Library since 1896, offering a vast array of historical and current U.S. government publications and resources. Nearly 700,000 federal publications are housed at Memphis Public Libraries, including over 17,000 electronic publications. The collection, which is available in English, Spanish and other languages, includes information about citizenship, social security, student loans, income taxes and disaster preparedness, along with other promotional material.