

*Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future*

# *69th Anniversary Observance of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott*



May 26, 2025, will mark the 69th Anniversary of Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, two female students from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, sitting down in the “whites only” section of a segregated bus in the city of Tallahassee.

*Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

May 23, 2025 (Friday)

City Hall

(300 S. Adams Street

Tallahassee FL 32301)

Presiding ..... Keith D. Parker

Musical Selections ..... Gamaliel Harris

*Star Spangled Banner*

*Lift Every Voice And Sing*

Welcome ..... Honorable Dianne Williams-Cox, Mayor Pro Tem

Purpose ..... T. J. Young

Tallahassee State College

Recitation..... Esinam Agama

Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

*After Apple Picking* by Robert Frost

Greetings .....

○ Honorable Dianne Williams-Cox, Mayor Pro Tem

○ President, FAMU, Invited

○ President, FSU, Invited

Recitation..... De’Ja Wimbley

FAMU DRS

*Mrs. Daisy Young* by De’Ja Wimbley

Musical Selection ..... Anonymous

*Brighter Days* by Blessing Offor

Reading of Proclamation(s)

○ City Commission, Commissioner Curtis Richardson

○ County Commission, Invited

Recitation..... Nadyia Ross

Augusta Raa Middle School

*Hey Black Child* by Countee Cullen

Closing Remarks ..... Pastor Derek M. Steele

Faith Street Christian Center

CEO of The C.K. Steele Human Rights Institute

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ..... Virtual Event

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89799003928?pwd=G6HHkK8oL1BnAbbHunU60biW0eB8Nj.1>

Meeting ID: 897 9900 3928 Passcode: 301604

The Tallahassee bus boycott was a citywide boycott that sought to end racial segregation in the employment and seating arrangements of city buses. On May 26, 1956, Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, two Florida A&M University students, were arrested by the Tallahassee Police Department for ‘placing themselves in a

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position to incite a riot’. Robert Saunders, representing the NAACP, and Reverend. C. K. Steele began talks with city authorities while the local African American community started boycotting the city's buses.

The documentary, *Footsteps to Freedom*, will be posted on the City of Tallahassee's government access channel (WCOT) for a period of time, May 19 – May 24. Please visit this website, [Tallahassee Bus Boycott](#), for agenda updates and events-related locations and times.

**Panelists:** Delaitre Hollinger  
Leann Watts Williams  
Priscilla Hawkins

**Moderator** Charquia Fegins

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May 24, 2025, at 10:30 AM (Saturday)

**10:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LeRoy Collins Leon County Main Library**  
**200 West Park Ave.**  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

The Council on the Status of Men and Boys, the Omega Lamplighters, Inc. and the National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc. will sponsor activities focusing on the 69th observance and celebration of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott. Activities will start at 10:30 AM.

Presiding .....	TBD
Recitation.....	Esinam Agama
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy	<i>After Apple Picking</i> by Robert Frost
Welcome .....	TBD
Purpose .....	TBD
Recitation.....	Nadyia Ross
Augusta Raa Middle School	<i>Hey Black Child</i> by Countee Cullen
Introduction of Speaker .....	TBD
Speaker .....	Fred Lee, Jr.
Royle King II, Executive Director of the Council on the Status of Men and Boys and the founder of Omega Lamplighters, Inc.	
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Closing Remarks .....	Royle King, II



May 26, 2026, will mark the 70th Anniversary of Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, two female students from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, sitting down in the “whites only” section of a segregated bus in the city of Tallahassee. The goal of the 2025 Ad Hoc Planning Committee is to create partnerships and sponsor 70th Anniversary events and activities beginning in October and culminating in May 2026.