

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

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
○ Aide to County Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Mr. Chauncy E. Haynes

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 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.

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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

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

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

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 Pastor Derek M. Steele
Faith Street Christian Center
CEO of The C.K. Steele Human Rights Institute

Recitation..... Esinam Agama
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy *After Apple Picking* by Robert Frost

Welcome TBD

Purpose TBD

Recitation..... Nadyia Ross
Augusta Raa Middle School *Hey Black Child* by Countee Cullen

Introduction of Speaker Dessie Andrews
Alum, Original Lincoln High School

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.

Closing Remarks Royle King, II
Executive Director of the Council on the Status of Men



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.