

FREEDOM, INC.



FORWARD™



KATHERYN SHIELDS STANDS UP FOR EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS FOR ALL

Page 5



COUNCILMAN REED AND FREEDOM, INC. PUSH TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

Page 6

PLUS...

NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER!

JOBS MATTER!

COMMUNITY MATTERS!

SMALL BUSINESSES MATTER!

SERVICES MATTER!

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS! *50th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act*



OUR CITY MATTERS!

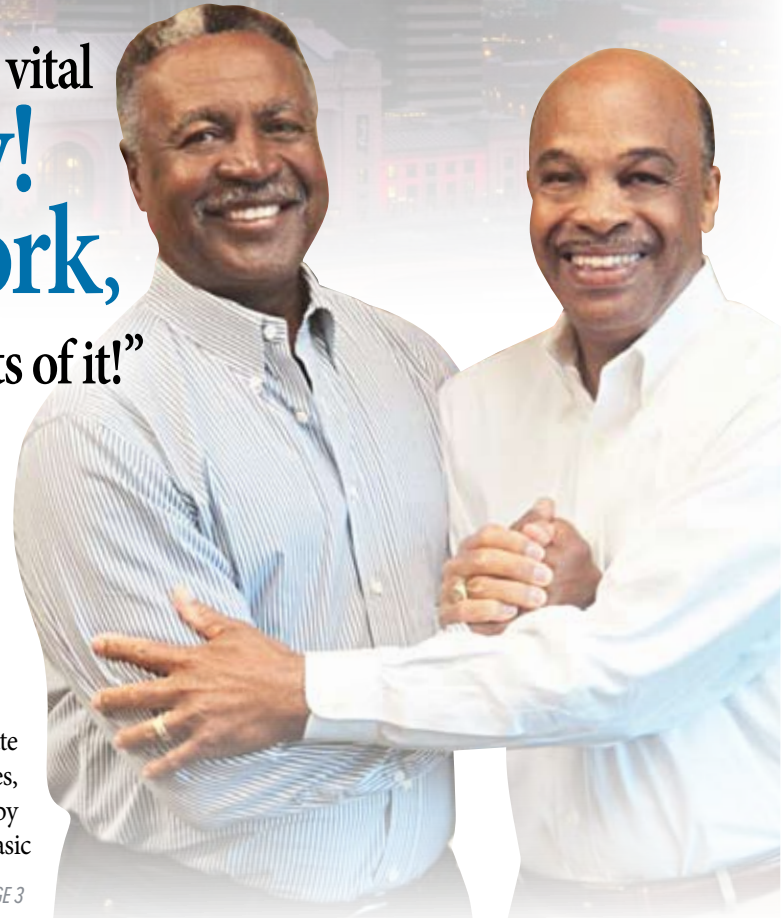
“A strong **City Council** is vital to a **winning city!**”

It requires **teamwork, experience** and lots of it!”

“Cooperation between County and City government is crucial to our success. With Ken Bacchus on the Council, we can't lose!” Says Jackson County Legislator Frank White.

Ken Bacchus has the experience needed to facilitate revitalization of the 5th District. Teaming with Lee Barnes, Quinton Lucas and the other candidates endorsed by Freedom, Inc., he will be a champion for improving basic

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FREEDOM, INC.



FORWARD™

Board of Directors

Leadership Team

Senator Shalonn “Kiki” Curls
Gwendolyn Grant
Dr. Gayle Holliday

Ken Bacchus
(Currently on leave of absence)
Bruce Beatty, Treasurer
Gail McCann Beatty
Craig Bland
Rodney Bland
Melba Curls
Randy Dunn
DaRon McGee
Darren Smith
Keith Thomas



Freedom, Inc. Leadership Team (l-r):
Dr. Gayle Holliday, Gwendolyn Grant and
Senator Shalonn “Kiki” Curls

1202 Brooklyn Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64127
816-483-VOTE (8683)
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KC skyline photo courtesy of Raye Pond Photography.

2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

BY GWENDOLYN GRANT

I remember the struggle to win our right to vote: the lynchings, the water hoses, the marches, the sit-ins, the lives lost, and the pain and suffering that so many endured so that we can exercise the franchise.

I also remember the jubilation, elation, pride and joy expressed by my elders when they stood in long lines to register to vote. Even though I was a little too young to grasp the real meaning of it all at the time, I knew it was important.

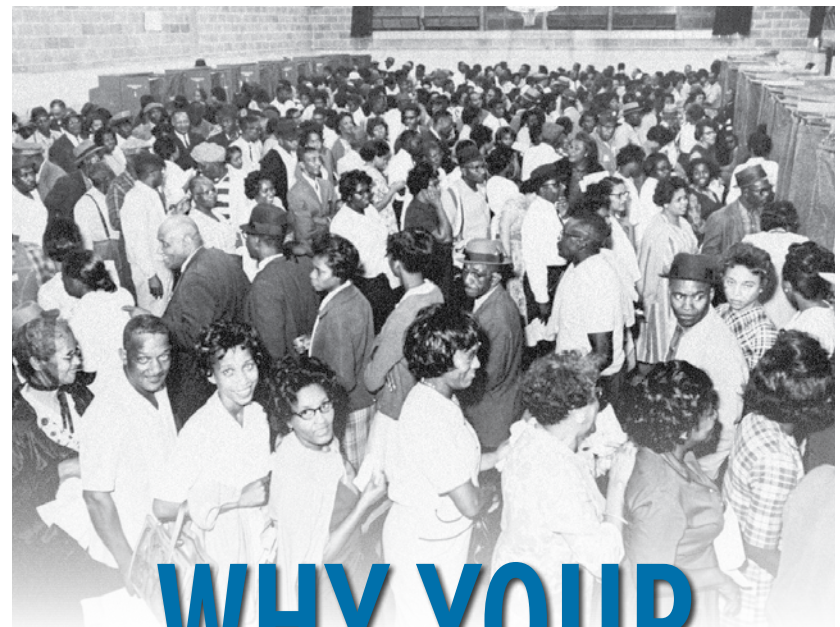
I remember accompanying my mother to the polls and how proud she was when she cast her first ballot. At the ripe age of 90, my dear mom has voted in every election since she gained her right to vote in 1965. She knew then – and still knows – that her vote matters.

Like mom, children of the civil rights era knew that the future for blacks depended on the ballot. They knew that exercising their voting rights would mean an end to segregation, discrimination, hooded acts of violence, and lynchings that were pervasive in those days. They knew that voting would open doors of opportunity for blacks to live, learn, and work as equals.

Voting mattered then and voting matters now. But far too many of us are disengaged.

When asked why, many Black Kansas Citians respond that they don't believe their vote matters. They can't see any benefit in exercising their voting right. Unemployment rates are in double digits. Inner-city neighborhoods are devastated by crime, blight and hopelessness. They are disillusioned. Blacks turned out in huge numbers in 2008 and 2012 to elect and re-elect Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States, but hope and change on the local level eludes them.

Paradoxically, the same reasons people don't vote are the reasons why they should.



WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Here are five reasons “WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS”:

- 1. IT'S YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR OBLIGATION.** Thousands fought, struggled and died for your right to vote. Frederick Douglass said: “No class of men can, without insulting their own nature, be content with any deprivation of their rights.”
- 2. YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS IT.** Voting in local and state elections is paramount in determining your quality of life. Who and what you vote for impacts basic services, education and healthcare.
- 3. YOUR JOB IS ON THE LINE.** Raising the minimum wage and the right to join a union are current issues that directly impact your earning power.
- 4. YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE AND THE GREAT EQUALIZER.** Collective action starts with voting. Politicians listen to demands from communities with high voter turnout. The higher the voter turnout, the louder your voice. Your vote ensures equal access to seats of power at all levels of government.
- 5. YOUR FREEDOM DEPENDS ON IT.** Your vote can influence racial profiling policies, police use-of-force, incarceration rates, and who serves in the judiciary.

DO YOU WANT CHANGE? JUSTICE? EQUALITY?
VOTE TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015!



OUR CITY MATTERS! *CONTINUED*

services and the allocation of resources for housing and economic development throughout the district.

After four years of stagnation, neglect, and inattention, we can ill afford to elect a council member lacking experience and skills in housing and economic development. Ken Bacchus has expertise in housing and economic development. His opponent has expertise in prosecution and incarceration.

We need the experience of Bacchus at City Hall. We need the experience of his opponent at the Court House. **Think about it: In these turbulent times do you want to send a community builder or a community prosecutor to City Hall?**



“It’s our responsibility as neighbors to “be the change” that we want and need in our community; and it is the responsibility of the City Council to listen to residents and take action to bring about this positive change. We will rise or fall together!”

– LEE BARNES
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE / 5TH DISTRICT AT-LARGE

TEAMWORK MATTERS!

BY LEE BARNES

Great strides have been made since I was a boy growing up in Kansas City. When President Obama was elected in 2008 our hearts were filled with hope. Now, in 2015, it is important for us to work together for social and economic justice. It’s our responsibility as neighbors to “be the change” that we want and need in our community; and it is the responsibility of the City Council to listen to residents and take action



- ★ **PUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK**
- ★ **RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE**
- ★ **PROTECT PROPERTY VALUES – NEW HOUSING, BUSINESSES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**
- ★ **REVITALIZE THE PROSPECT CORRIDOR**
- ★ **IMPROVE BASIC SERVICES FOR OUR “FORGOTTEN NEIGHBORHOODS”**

KEN BACCHUS engages 5th District residents, Blue Hills Neighborhood Association members, and guests at a community “Fish Fry” about his 5-Star Plan for the District.



to bring about this positive change. We will rise or fall together!

As your councilman, I will team with Ken Bacchus and others to see that the basic services (snow removal, road and curb repair, and street lighting) our community needs and deserves are delivered, and that every resident has access to their government.

Our community will not prosper without living wage jobs and stable employment. The most effective way to gain progress in this area is to partner with existing corporations and businesses to develop attractive community reinvestment incentives, explore more creative avenues for business startups, offer financial support and mentoring to entrepreneurs, and create more opportunities for developers to revitalize under-served communities. The combination of these things

as well as infrastructure improvements are essential to the future prosperity of all Kansas Citians.

Some years ago I was elected to the Kansas City School Board, and currently I am Director of Operations at The Upper Room which provides education programs to approximately 3,000 inner-city youth. The responsibility we have to our children is something I take personally.

I will use my experience on the Kansas City School Board, my experience as an engineer, and my experience as Chairman of the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority to collaborate with residents of the community to ensure basic public services are improved, more jobs are available to more workers, and our children grow up in a stronger Kansas City!

GREEN ACRES HELPS LOCAL RESIDENTS OF FOOD DESERTS

BY AILEY POPE

Green Acres Farm & Gardening is a non-profit organization founded five years ago by former City Councilwoman Carol Coe. Beginning with a mini-farm at 27th and Prospect, Green Acres provides healthy food options within the urban core. Green Acres has made a commitment to grow and provide healthy vegetables in what is known as a “food desert.”

Over the years Green Acres has expanded from gardening to Aquaponics. This innovation allows fish to be grown inside a green house year round. The fish also provide a means to grow vegetables in the green house. Using old-school ways of cultivating soil in combination with innovative techniques, Green Acres has contributed substantially to the distribution of healthy food. In partnership with the Kansas City School District, Lincoln University and the City of Kansas City, MO, Green Acres has helped feed thousands of residents in “food deserts” across the city.

The development of parcels for people in the urban core to collectively garden, farm and cultivate helps to revitalize neighborhoods. Green Acres has been helpful in the elimination of blight and the creation of food producing green spaces. We need to expand operations to serve more people and stabilize more neighborhoods.



Carol Coe is ready to prepare land for a community garden, as Rev. Kenneth Ray and State Representative Randy Dunn look on.

“With the dynamic team of Jermaine Reed, Quinton Lucas, Ken Bacchus and Lee Barnes on the City Council, Green Acres can expand, create jobs, and feed our community!”



AILEY POPE has a Master’s Degree in Theological Studies from Southern Methodist University. She is currently a congressional aide in the U.S. Senate.

NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER!



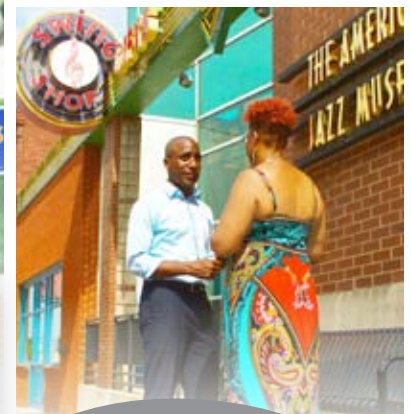
“Our residents deserve a safe and thriving neighborhood to live and raise their families. We must make a long-term commitment to reduce crime, eliminate blight, and maintain and improve our infrastructure.”

Kevin McManus
6th District for City Council

JOBS MATTER!



“It’s extremely important that we focus our attention on job creation. Everywhere I go people are talking about how we must get our young people trained and into a living wage career that they can be proud of.”



Quinton **Lucas**
FOR CITY COUNCIL
3RD DISTRICT AT-LARGE

THE CLEAR CHOICE:



Since managing U.S. Congressman Alan Wheat's first campaign in 1982, serving on the City Council (with Mayor Cleaver), and as Jackson County Executive (1995-2006),

Katheryn Shields has a long history of standing up for equality and fairness for all!

As County Executive, Shields brought living wage jobs to residents, saved millions of dollars by professional asset management, and fostered the Mental Health Courts and Police Crisis Training programs to protect lives of police and civilians. Shields renovated the Truman Sports Complex for less than one third of the \$1.4 billion that other cities were paying for two new stadiums, and she negotiated the 25-year contract that has kept the Chiefs at Arrowhead and Royals at Kauffman.

Jim Glover is no friend of the African-American community! While on the City Council he:

- Voted against the appointment of an African American female judge to the Kansas City, MO Municipal Court bench.

- Despite pleas from community leaders, he voted to eliminate the jobs of 21 African American women at City Hall.
- Developed a plan to displace and relocate African American residents of the Bainbridge Apartments resulting in a Fair Housing Complaint against him and the City of Kansas City, MO. He tried to have the apartment building condemned for "social blight," based on the socioeconomic status of the predominantly black tenants.

Katheryn Shields is the conspicuous choice over a man who opposed the appointment of a black female judge, voted to eliminate jobs held by black professional women, and who supports discriminatory housing practices.

TERESA LOAR IS A STRONG BELIEVER IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This community knows Teresa Loar! When she served with Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II, she shared his philosophy, "there is more power in unity than division," and supported his initiatives to improve our city and the quality of life for all residents.

Teresa is committed to what matters to residents:

- Basic city services
- Neighborhood revitalization and demolition of abandoned and dangerous buildings
- A livable wage
- Efficient public transportation
- New development in the Prospect Corridor and the Northland



COMMUNITY MATTERS!



KATHERYN SHIELDS supports African American youth groups.



TERESA LOAR volunteers at the Paseo West Neighborhood Clean-Up Day in May 2015.

FREEDOM TAKES LEAD ON MINIMUM WAGE PETITIONS

In response to the outcry for support from thousands of low-wage workers in Kansas City, Freedom, Inc. took the lead in gathering the 3,573 signatures needed for a ballot initiative to increase the minimum wage.

Freedom, Inc. supports raising the minimum wage from \$7.65 to \$10 per hour by September 1, 2015, and to \$15 per hour by the year 2020.

In concert with numerous faith-based, labor, and social justice organizations including SCLC, the Urban Summit, and the Urban League, Freedom recognizes the plight of the working poor who struggle daily to provide food, clothing, and shelter for their families. A minimum wage of \$7.65/hour or \$61.20/day is insufficient to meet the basic needs of any family.

The Urban League's 2015 *State of Black Kansas City* reports that, in spite of the nation's economic recovery, blacks in the Greater Kansas City area are in economic crisis with double-digit rates of unemployment and a median net worth of only \$6,314 compared to a median net worth of \$110,500 for whites. These alarming statistics make a strong case for raising the minimum wage to a livable wage. Raising the minimum wage to \$10 and later to \$15 will make a huge difference in the quality of life for thousands who reside in inner-city neighborhoods.

ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES WHO UNDERSTAND THAT A LIVING WAGE MATTERS! VOTE THE ENTIRE FREEDOM BALLOT!



“ I want to challenge the system and raise the minimum wage because there are people who are hurting, working poor, trying to earn a living wage every single day.”

– 3RD DISTRICT COUNCILMAN JERMAINE REED

SERVICES MATTER!

“ Every neighborhood in Kansas City regardless of economic status or location must be provided with adequate and timely basic public services such as trash pick up and road maintenance.”



JUSTUS FOR KC
CITY COUNCIL - 4TH DISTRICT

SMALL BUSINESSES MATTER!



SCOTT TAYLOR
CITY COUNCIL 6TH AT-LARGE

“ We need to expand the microloan program and eliminate the red tape that hinders the startup of small businesses.”



BY GAIL MCCANN BEATTY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 26

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT:



On May 15th, the 2015 Legislative Session came to a close. With a Republican-controlled House we passed the fewest number of bills since 2000. However, we were able to accomplish some great things for citizens in the Kansas City area. This year, the sunset for funding for KCATA was eliminated, assuring that we will continue to have public transit throughout the city.

As ranking member on budget, I fought for new and continued funding for programs that affect our city. We secured \$11.75 million for a summer youth jobs program throughout the state; the Kansas City area will receive approximately 1,500 youth jobs. We continued

support for the 18th & Vine District with funding for the Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and \$2 million to partner with Major League Baseball for the MLB Urban Youth Academy. \$500,000 was secured for the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods which will provide valuable resources to neighborhood organizations by providing legal and urban planning assistance just to name a few. A new line item was added to provide \$100,000 for the Kansas City School District homeless transportation program.

Our success in Jefferson City requires support from local officials. It is imperative that we work together. **THE FREEDOM BALLOT IS A WINNING TEAM! YOUR VOTE MATTERS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD.**

STOP HOUSING COURT INJUSTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISADVANTAGED

BY EGGS & ENLIGHTENMENT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

THE ISSUE: Disadvantaged residents are frequently and regularly paraded before Housing Court Judge Todd Wilcher for minor housing code violations. The residents are typically the elderly and individuals who have low and fixed incomes.

THE COMPLAINT: Residents are routinely ordered to make repairs to their homes that they cannot afford. Further, it has been reported that Housing Court Judge Wilcher has sentenced elderly citizens, who could not afford to pay the fines assessed, to jail.

FURTHER FINDINGS: Judge Wilcher, a former City Prosecutor, has been found to be impatient with individuals appearing before him, often scolding them. He has been insensitive in his judgments and demeaning in his comments.

THE REMEDY: Judge Todd Wilcher should NOT be retained on the bench. Elderly and disadvantaged Kansas Citians matter and deserve compassionate justice.

ON JUNE 23RD VOTE NO ON THE RETENTION OF HOUSING COURT JUDGE TODD D. WILCHER!

FREEDOM, INC.



FORWARD.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

★ TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015 ★

DETACH AND BRING TO THE POLLS ★ NEED A RIDE? CALL 816-483-VOTE

MAYOR
NO ENDORSEMENT

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 1ST DISTRICT
NO ENDORSEMENT

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 2ND DISTRICT



Teresa Loar

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 3RD DISTRICT



Quinton D. Lucas

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 4TH DISTRICT



Katheryn Shields

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 5TH DISTRICT



Lee Barnes

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE 6TH DISTRICT



Scott Taylor

COUNCIL MEMBER 3RD DISTRICT



Jermaine Reed

COUNCIL MEMBER 4TH DISTRICT



Jolie Justus

COUNCIL MEMBER 5TH DISTRICT



Kenneth Bacchus

COUNCIL MEMBER 6TH DISTRICT



Kevin McManus

MUNICIPAL JUDGES SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MUNICIPAL DIVISION
VOTE ON EACH JUDGE.

YES JUDGE JOSEPH H. LOCASCIO

YES JUDGE ARDIE A. BLAND

YES JUDGE KATHERINE BROMFIELD EMKE

YES JUDGE ANNE J. LABELLA

YES JUDGE ELENA M. FRANCO

NO JUDGE TODD D. WILCHER (HOUSING COURT)

FREEDOM,

A Tribute to Fred Avril Curls

Fred Curls, patriarch of a prominent political family passed away on May 15, 2015 at the age of 96. In 1962, he joined Leon Jordon, Bruce Watkins, Leonard Hughes, Marion Foote, Howard Maupin and Dr. Charles Moore to form Freedom, Inc. Fred Curls was the last surviving founder.

Mr. Curls was a pioneer in both business and in politics. He was the first African American real estate appraiser in western Missouri. To a generation of real estate brokers, he was "Godfather." Though he never held elected office, Curls instilled public service in his family. His son Phillip (*with dad at podium*) was a legendary political leader who served in both houses of the Missouri legislature. Sons



Darwin and Darrell have been elected to local school boards; daughter-in-law Melba is a Kansas City Councilwoman; and, granddaughter Shalonn "Kiki" Curls is a Missouri Senator.

Curls developed strategies to win elections of the first African American City Council members, Mayor, and U.S. Congressman. He also cultivated the political aspirations of young people and was committed to Freedom, Inc. throughout his life.

Freedom Inc., "The Legacy Continues"



Left to right are: Rev. James Tindall, Jackson County Legislator and the newly elected board chairman of the organization, Archie IV. Hatch Jr., the newly elected president; Mary Gorman Beard, State Representative, and district Phillip B. Curls, State Senator, 9th district, the outgoing Freedom, Inc. president and Rev. Emanuel Cleaver, City Commissioner 10th district and outgoing board chairman.

"Young African American elected officials may not realize that the very office they hold — or aspire to hold — is, in no small part related to the political pioneering of Fred Curls."

—CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER II

INC. MATTERS!

FREEDOM, INCORPORATED has been at the forefront of registering and mobilizing African American voters and serving the disadvantaged for over 50 years.

History making highlights and headlines:



1982 Alan Wheat is elected first African American to represent Kansas City area in U.S. Congress.

1991 Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II elected Kansas City's first African American mayor. Five African Americans serve on the City Council.

2004 Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II is elected to U.S. Congress, the second African American to represent the Kansas City area.

FREEDOM, INC. FORMS COALITION TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF DISADVANTAGED

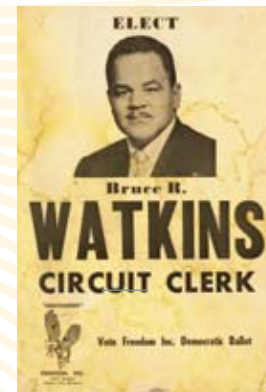


Senator Curls (left) with members of Missouri General Assembly and Freedom, Inc. form coalition to address needs of disadvantaged in Kansas City.



1964 Leon Jordan elected to Missouri House of Representatives for the first time.

2014 Freedom mobilizes a successful campaign to name the KCPD East Patrol campus after Leon Jordan.



1966 Bruce Watkins is first African American to win a county wide election for Jackson County Circuit Court Clerk.

FREEDOM, INC.



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FOR A DETAILED HISTORY TIMELINE:
WWW.FREEDOMINCORPORATED.ORG

