

# Fremont NAACP celebrates King's life, message

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Fremont residents held a unity march on Front Street Thursday night in honor of the Fremont NAACP branch's first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. week. The week included a visit to Fremont from state NAACP President Tom Roberts and a city-wide oratorical contest for students. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The-News-Messenger)

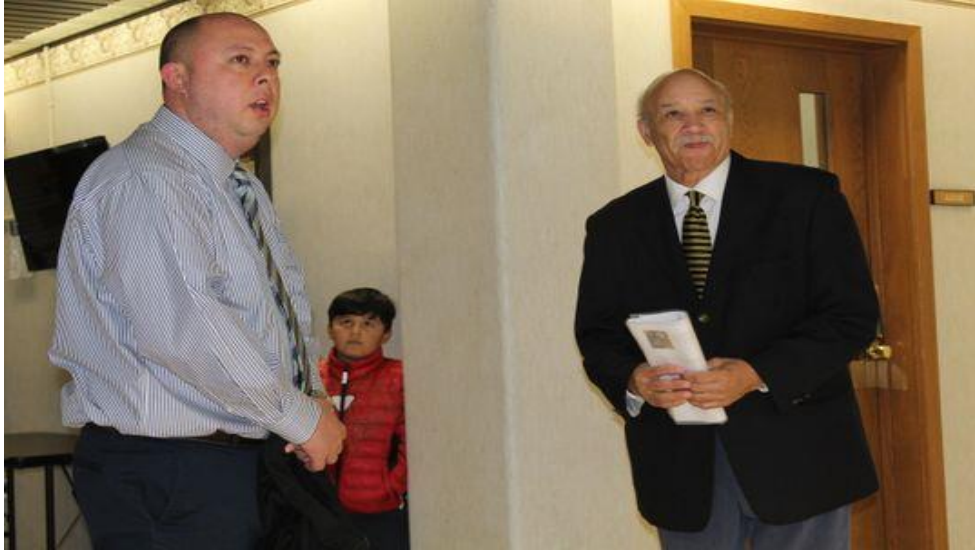
FREMONT - City residents held a march of unity in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thursday, as the Fremont NAACP continued its week of celebrating the civil rights icon's life with a series of public events.

Thursday marked the 41st anniversary of King's death.

NAACP and community members held signs bearing King's likeness and marched down Front Street to Fremont City Hall, where local NAACP chapter president Regina Vincent-Williams spoke briefly about the need for city residents to work together in unity.

The week's events included a citywide oratorical contest and a visit Thursday from Ohio NAACP President Tom Roberts.

Roberts said the NAACP's state branch is focused on addressing six areas of inequality, "game changers," facing African Americans.



Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez and Ohio NAACP President Tom Roberts spoke Thursday at Fremont City Hall as part of the local NAACP chapter's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)

Those game changers include economic sustainability, education, affordable health care, public safety and criminal justice, voting rights and political representation and expanding youth and young adult engagement.

"This gives me a chance to see firsthand how the unit is doing," Roberts said of Fremont's NAACP chapter.

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Statewide, the NAACP is keeping an eye on issues such as prison overcrowding, state takeovers of public schools and voter suppression, Roberts said.

Roberts said he had family members in Fostoria and Fremont and visited the area often.

Prior to the march, Roberts said he met with students at Fremont Middle School Thursday.

James Williams, the Fremont NAACP branch's membership committee chairman, said the chapter has doubled its membership since the beginning of 2019 and continues to welcome new members.

He said the chapter planned to hold a scholarship banquet, honor roll event and a Juneteenth celebration on June 15.



Jeriah Martin, 7, of Fremont delivers a speech about Martin Luther King Jr. before the Fremont City Council meeting Thursday evening. Martin participated in the city-wide MLK Week oratorical contest. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)

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During the week, Mayor Danny Sanchez issued a proclamation to be read at the Annual Citywide Oratorical Contest Tuesday at Fremont Middle School.

Several participants in the oratorical contest read their speeches Thursday in the Fremont Municipal Court chambers prior to the Fremont City Council meeting.

Area students that read speeches included Jeriah Martin, Kamiya Harmon, Natalia Alonso, Mychael Torres and T.I. Irons.

James Williams said residents interested in becoming NAACP members can call 770-821-8808 for more information.

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