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**Report
to the
Connectional Council
of the
African Methodist Episcopal Zion
Church
Birmingham, Alabama
July 17-20, 2018**

**SUBMITTED BY: Karen V. Hill, President & CEO
Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.**

**Rt. Reverend Dennis V. Proctor
Presiding Prelate & Chairman
Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.
Auburn, New York**



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PROGRESS REPORT

The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (HTH) made substantial progress in developing the relationship with the National Park Service (NPS) and participating in its programs.

Implementation Agreement - The Implementation Agreement was executed by Bishop Dennis V. Proctor and Karen V. Hill in January 2018. Recently the HTH was informed that this essential document with a five year shelf life is nearing the end of a re-tooling process by the National Park Service. Therefore, National Park Service (NPS) paused the progress towards execution and has asked that we execute the new Implementation Agreement. The Implementation Agreement defines how the HTH and AMEZ Church and the NPS will interface regarding operating and maintaining the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. It is critical to have an executed agreement so that the HTH can be reimbursed at 50% for monies spent operating and maintaining the HTNHP since January 10, 2017.

EASEMENT

The final draft language of the Preservation and Conservation Easement is being prepared by NPS. NPS contract surveyors have completed surveying the property. The Easement is in perpetuity. It permits NPS to enter the property and interior of buildings

Final language on the Preservation and Conservation Easement should be completed by end of August. The entire transaction, including review by the NYS AG should be concluded by November 2018.

HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK -HOURS & PARK RANGERS

Beginning June 3, 2018 through the end of September 2018 the HTNHP will be open six days a week. National Park Rangers will staff the home on Sundays during this high visitation period.

Being open on Sunday is considered an important service to the public. The detailed Park Rangers have received training on Tubman to assist in their delivery of a quality experience.

The Thompson Memorial AMEZ Church and parsonage which is in the HTNHP boundary is an active construction site. NPS is painstakingly taking the church back to its origins, showing the beautiful workmanship of the sanctuary.

POWER LINES, RIGHT OF WAYS & SECURITY

The power lines which crisscross the Tubman homestead are a hazard. They jeopardize public safety and threaten the extant resources of the park. HTH is working with the utility company to move power lines to the perimeter of the property.

The improvements on South Street have been rescheduled for Spring 2019. The right of ways to be rented and purchased by NYS are expected to come forward in 2018. The improvements will widen South Street near the park, create a left turning lane and create a bicycle lane.

The HTH has begun to receive electronic security proposals which it will share with NPS, who will be expected to pay for 50% of the expense, after HTH has determined the proposal which best suits its needs.

TUBMAN PHOTO, FUNDRAISING & THE NMAAHC

In late winter 2017 the HTH launched a successful Go Fund Me Campaign to support the acquisition, at auction, of the rare photo of a young Harriet Tubman. The Library of Congress and the NMAAHC jointly outbid the HTH. The NMAAHC reported to HTH that they had no intention to bid. That said, to ameliorate feelings among the three institutions the NMAAHC has agreed to loan the Emily Howland photo album, which contains the photograph of a young Harriet Tubman, to the HTH. HTH will present to the NMAAHC a security plan and the overall plans for sharing the photo album with the public. 2020 is the earliest we will be able to have access to the photography album. HTH will be in position to offer viewing of the photo album for free and a companion fundraising event.

VISITATION

The HTH experienced record visitation in 2017 and this number is expected to continue to grow. Over 10,000 visitors experienced Tubman and the gift shop sold over \$27,000 in merchandise. HTH expects to install laser counters and have tablets available to capture visitor data. The sale of merchandise will increase as we are financially able to increase and modify the inventory. Visitors to the home will increase with improved customer service. The recent opening of Uber and Lyft services from Syracuse to Auburn will create an uptick in 2018 visitation..

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES - SUMMER 2018

GirlTrek - a national organization that promotes healthy living by Black women through walking. GirlTrek will be at the HTNHP on Saturday, June 23, 2018. They will walk to Seneca Falls. Birthplace of Women's Right to vote.

Harriet Tubman Music Festival - HTNHP is the location for artists to perform all genres of music committed to humanity and hope on Saturday, July 21, 2018

Episcopal Church - Reparations Committee - will hold a retreat at the HTNHP on July 25-26, 2018

Harriet Tubman 2018 Annual Pilgrimage

Despite late Spring weather challenges, the Harriet Tubman Annual Pilgrimage in Auburn, New York exceeded many expectations. Led by Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate and Chairman, Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. Board of Directors, the pilgrimage began with a commemorative graveside ceremony where Rev. Dr. Melanie Miller, Navy Chaplain gave a moving tribute to the life and military service of Harriet Tubman. The service concluded with a wreath laying ceremony and prayer by Bishop Proctor, Missionary Supervisor Proctor and Rev. Dr. Haynes.





The Pilgrimage Program keynote was given by Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, Pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church, Dallas



Texas the central theme was “She went Back”. Dr. Haynes historical account of Harriet Tubman and the contemporary relevance of her core values were h hallmarks of a dynamic inter generational message for the pilgrims.



Bishop Proctor bestowed the Harriet Tubman Home ***Quest for Freedom*** Award to Dr. Haynes. This award was also given to Rep. John M. Katko for his bipartisan work with Rep. Elijah Cummings, advocating for Harriet Tubman's image to appear on the \$200 banknote.

The 2018 Tubman pilgrimage received high marks from attendees. This was important as the New Jersey Annual Conference experienced the pilgrimage for the first time. Presiding Elder Anthony Gibson met with his ministry colleagues experienced the robust celebration and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Dr. Gibson saw the HTH accomplishments as well as the challenges of managing the park and completing the preservation of the Tubman Brick Residence.

The 2019 Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage will be held on May 31-June 1, 2019. As heirs to the incredible legacy of Harriet Tubman, every freedom loving person should experience the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.