Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument invites public input on preliminary park operational plan *Public comment period runs from Mar. 28 to Jun. 30*

JACKSON, MS – Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument today announced an opportunity for the public to comment on preliminary management concepts that will guide the new national park's operations.

An extensive initial 90-day public comment period on draft concepts for the park's Development Concept Plan (DCP) will open from Mar. 28 to Jun. 30 and include opportunities to submit written comments and participate in public meetings.

"We are pleased to offer this chance for the public to provide early input on the future of Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument," said **Superintendent Keena Graham.** "The comments and feedback we receive on the park planning concepts will be critical to our ongoing work with partners to help shape park operations for decades to come."

The park will hold three public meetings in the Jackson area to discuss preliminary ideas about the park's GMP:

- March 28, 2023, from 11:00 am 1:00 pm (Central Time) at the Two Mississippi Museums, 222 North Street, Jackson MS.
- March 28, 2023, from 5:00 pm 7:00 pm (Central Time) at the Evers Home, 2332 Margaret W Alexander Drive, Jackson, MS, <u>weather permitting</u>.
- March 29, 2023, from 11:00 am 1:00pm (Central Time) at the Medgar Evers Blvd Public Library, 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd, Jackson 39213.

During the meetings, National Park Service staff will explain the plan process, showcase methods for public comment, and answer participants' questions. The three meeting presentations will offer the same information.

Written comments may be submitted online at <u>https://parkplanning.nps.gov/memy_clr</u> (select "Open for Comment" on the left menu bar) or by mail to:

National Park Service Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument Attn: MEMY CLR / Superintendent Keena Graham 222b North Street #2205 Jackson MS 39201

Written comments on the initial phase of the plan must be submitted online or postmarked by Jun. 30 to be considered. Additional opportunities for commenting and public engagement will be offered over the course of the project.

More information about the meetings and planning process are available on the project website at <u>https://parkplanning.nps.gov/memy_clr</u>.

About the Park Planning project

Designated as a unit of the NPS in November 2020, the park is comprised of three parcels in the Elraine neighborhood that are owned and directly managed by the agency—the home itself at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive and two vacant parcels along Missouri Street near its intersection with West Ridgeway Street. From a historical perspective, the neighborhood is designated as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places and provides an essential historic setting for the Evers home, which individually is listed as a National Historic Landmark. The two vacant parcels provide opportunities to provide a location for visitor services and operational support at the park. Alternatives for use of these two parcels as well as other potential management arrangements will be identified and evaluated in a Cultural Landscape Report, that will recommend a development concept to guide neighborhood interface, visitor experience, management, park facilities development and park operations for at least 20 years.

The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument in Jackson, Mississippi is a unit of the National Park Service honoring the life and work of two important civil rights figures, Medgar and Myrlie Evers. Built in 1956, the house is in Jackson's Elraine subdivision, the first post-World War II subdivision created for middle-class African Americans in Mississippi. The house helps tell a powerful story of the sacrifices the couple faced as civil rights activists and the efforts they made to protect their family. The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home became a unit of the National Park Service in November 2020 via Section 2301 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019. The monument links the couple's work to a tangible place, where visitors may engage with their story and learn about the ongoing struggle for social justice in the United States.

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More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 424 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at <u>www.nps.gov</u>, and on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.