



WEST INDIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

P. O. Box 2632 - Hartford, CT 06146

Telephone: (860) 888-4638

E-Mail: info@wiichartford.org - Visit website <http://wiichartford.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WEST INDIAN PARADE TO CELEBRATE 57 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AUGUST 10, 2019

=====

Hartford, Connecticut: This year marks the 57th Anniversary of the West Indian Independence and Emancipation Celebrations in the Greater Hartford area. W.I.I.C. was established in 1962, as the West Indian Independence Parade, to commemorate and celebrate the independence of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. Many of the Caribbean Islands received their independence in rapid succession which led to the expansion of the organization. The celebration activities began by focusing on community, unity and cultural awareness; as a result, it receives broad based support from diversified organization.

We continue this tradition with the theme of Celebrating Unity during 2019 with a Carnival Parade on August 10th beginning at 11 a.m. The Parade will take the route from north main & Battles Street to Bushnell Park and end with a **free** concert in the park featuring international and local entertainers. World renowned and Reggae Ambassadors "Third World" is slated to be this year's major headliner. This chart topping band is certain to entertain the audience with a slew of hits ranging from the popular "Now we've found Love, 'Try Jah Love, and "96 degrees in the shade". In addition to Third World fans can expect to see many more artists hailing from both local and international backgrounds including a spirit filled gospel segment and a major Soca act. Patrons will be entertained by marching bands, floats, drill teams, dance troupes, sound selectors and live bands from various parts of the world.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations historically draw thousands of people to the festivities during this activity filled week which culminates with the Carnival Parade. We are one of the world's oldest festival parades that celebrate independence of the West Indies. Our aim is to attract the interest of tourists from all over by showcasing our rich heritage through a vibrant carnival celebration filled with music, food and fun. There will be a kick-off program that will feature illustrations of costumes on June 7, 2019 at the West Indian Social Club. Patrons can always look forward to the wide array of vendors who will display their various culinary skills and prepare delicious traditional cuisines from the Caribbean and beyond.

We are urging participants to complete and submit applications and to be on time for the actual start of this family fun event. Donations are still needed to cover costs related to the celebration. We have several fundraising events planned along with magazine ads and well wishers to help with these costs. The West Indian Independence Celebrations Committee would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Greater Hartford Arts Council, Summer in the City, CHS, Dwight Freney and all media outlets for their contributions on making this event possible. We thank you for your continued support and looking forward to an exciting carnival celebration.

For more information on becoming to a sponsor, advertiser, volunteer, vendor, participant, or for performance related questions please contact the corresponding officers below. Also, feel free to visit our website at www.wiichartford.org or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wiic.hartford. All forms are available online.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Desmond Sinclair – President - 860-922-1856

Pat Miles – Vice President – 860-888-4638

Vernette Joshua – Secretary - 860-335-3411

Donovan Longmore – Parliamentarian - 860-777-7558

Hugh Freney – Historian/Treasurer - 860-883-3922

Raymond Davis – Parade Chair - 860-833-4357

J. Sean Antoine – Vending – 860-478-8037

Junior Wellington – Business Chair 860-916-1315