



## UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20425 [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov)

October 21, 2016

Mr. Adolphus Pruitt, II  
President  
St. Louis City NAACP  
4811 Delmar  
St. Louis, MO 63108

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

We, the Commissioners of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, enthusiastically join the NAACP in celebrating the upcoming 100th birthday of Frankie Muse Freeman.

In 1964, Frankie Muse Freeman became the first female to serve on the Commission. Her appointment by President Johnson – and her reappointment by Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter – are testament to a universal high regard for her civil rights advocacy.

Commissioner Freeman's period of service on the Commission, from 1964 to 1980, coincided with arguably one of the most difficult and politically vibrant periods for civil rights in modern American history: the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Selma march, the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., widespread race riots, and many others. In challenging times, hers was a voice for respect, dialogue, and understanding.

Commissioner Freeman's enduring legacy can be seen across a remarkable legal career spanning over 60 years. She established her own practice dedicated to helping individuals receive fair treatment and protection under the law. In 1954, Commissioner Freeman was the lead attorney for *Davis et al. v. the St. Louis Housing Authority*, which ended legal racial discrimination in public housing in the city. On the Commission, she fought to keep schools free from discrimination and division. Commissioner Freeman has received awards and recognition from diverse civil society organizations, and has given back to education as a longstanding Trustee of Howard University. In appreciation of her dedicated service, Commissioner Freeman's photograph is proudly displayed on the wall of our headquarters. In a fitting tribute, in 2015 President Obama appointed her to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

We are certain that those attending the NAACP's gala will be captivated by Commissioner Freeman's recollections on her service with the Commission. It is our pleasure to join – albeit remotely - this birthday celebration and to express our gratitude to the St. Louis NAACP for honoring an American civil rights giant.

Commissioner Freeman, we thank you for helping to lay the groundwork for the work we do today. Happy Birthday!!

Very truly yours,



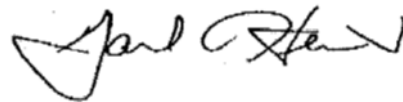
Martin R. Castro, Chairman



Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Vice-Chair



Roberta Achtenberg, Commissioner



Gail Heriot, Commissioner



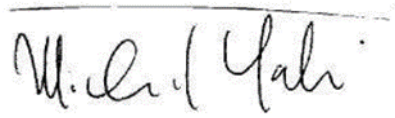
Peter Kirsanow, Commissioner



David Kladney, Commissioner



Karen K. Narasaki, Commissioner



Michael Yaki, Commissioner