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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette Youth Coordinate 8th Annual MLK Celebration

LAFAYETTE, Colo January 11, 2013 - On Monday, January 21, 2013, hundreds of community members will pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. during the City of Lafayette's eighth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March for Peace and Celebration. Planned in conjunction with the Federal King holiday, the event will kick-off with a community march at 12:00 p.m. at the southwest corner of West Waneka Parkway and South Public Road. The march will conclude at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer (North Public and Baseline Roads), where a celebration and service fair will be underway.

Free and open to the public, the afternoon celebration will include a keynote address by critically-acclaimed rapper and poet Molina Speaks, performances by the Shekenah Glory Choir, Angevine Middle School Jazz Band, and Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer's "Dance for Social Change" group, and original poetry by University of Colorado undergraduates. An inclusive community playback performance by Motus Theater will follow, as will service projects at both Pioneer and Project YES (805 Excaliber Street).

Originally conceived by service-learning students at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer in November 2004, the City of Lafayette's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event historically has been planned by area youth. In keeping with the tradition, this year's event is being organized by the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee, which is serving as an event sponsor along with the University of Colorado's Public Achievement program.

Discussing the role of youth in this year's event, Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee advisor Elaina Verveer said, "Given the invaluable role that young people played during the Civil Rights Movement, it is fitting that youth maintain Dr. King's life and legacy through community building and service."

Community members are encouraged to meet on the southwest corner of West Waneka Parkway and South Public Road by 11:45 a.m. The first 200 individuals to arrive will receive a free event t-shirt. Nonperishable food items will be collected on behalf of the Sister Carmen Community Center both prior to the march and at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer during the afternoon celebration from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityoflafayette.com

The Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee engages Lafayette youth in outreach, advisory, and educational opportunities through solutions-based discourse and action in their community. In addition, the Committee advises the City Council on youth related issues and other relevant topics, and fosters youth leadership and civic participation in the greater community. Representing five local middle and high schools, 20 students currently comprise the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee.

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