



**For Immediate Release: May 6, 2016**

## **55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of Freedom Rides**

### **WHAT:**

Fifty-five years later, to the hour, Freedom Riders are returning to Montgomery's former Greyhound Bus Station.

In 1961, they stepped off a bus at 10:23 AM, aiming to end the illegal practice of forbidding black and white citizens from sitting together on buses and trains, or in stations and airports. They were attacked and beaten by an angry, police-sanctioned mob.

### **WHEN:**

On May 20-21, Freedom Riders from all over the nation will gather at the former bus station in Montgomery at 10:15 AM to join the Alabama Historical Commission in commemorating the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freedom Rides.

### **WHERE:**

Freedom Rides Museum, 210 South Court Street, Montgomery, AL

### **SERIES OF EVENTS:**

- 55<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Honoring Freedom Riders.
  - Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange will provide greetings for the event. The Museum's current exhibit will feature work by artist Charlotte Riley-Webb. A musical tribute by the McKee Middle School Choir and remarks from various officials and Attorney Fred Gray.
- The Alabama Historical Commission will hold its quarterly meeting in conjunction with the Freedom Rides commemoration. This meeting, to be held at Troy University Montgomery Campus, is open to the public.
- A Community Event at First Baptist Church, 347 N. Ripley Street where the Freedom Riders will speak about their experiences.
- First Annual B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bike) Freedom Ride – register for this free event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-annual-byob-bring-your-own-bike-freedom-ride-tickets-25135237171>
- Book Signings, Gallery Talks, Museum Tours
- There will be free admission to the museum on Friday and Saturday.

Please visit [www.freedomridesmuseum.org](http://www.freedomridesmuseum.org) to download a schedule of events and view the special anniversary website. Be sure to find us on [Facebook](#).

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**BACKGROUND:**

Working with concerned citizens, The Alabama Historical Commission saved the Greyhound Bus Station from demolition in the mid-1990s. The Museum is located at the intersection of S. Court St. and Adams Avenue in downtown Montgomery.

The [Alabama Historical Commission](#) owns and operates this significant historic site.

*The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places** and is the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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