

Commission on Human Rights

KY Human Rights Commissioner Timothy Thomas of Madisonville named recipient of the state's annual Martin Luther King Citizenship Award

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Contact Information: Victoria Stephens

Commission Headquarters: 1.800.292.5566

Stephens's mobile telephone: 502.641.0760

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is very pleased to announce that state human rights Commissioner Timothy W. Thomas of Madisonville, Ky., has been named the **Annual Martin Luther King Citizenship Award winner by the Kentucky Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Commission will present Commissioner Thomas with his award Thursday, Jan. 15, during the state annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration at 4 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, 100 W. Broadway, in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Participating at the event will be Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen, Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, Kentucky State University President Raymond M. Burse, Renee Shaw, host of "Connections with Renee Shaw" on KET, Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission, student art, essay and poetry contest winners, and the West Louisville Boys and Girls Choir.

Commissioner Thomas is serving his third term representing the First Supreme Court District on the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Board of Commissioners. He is also a commissioner of the African American Heritage Commission where he is serving a second term.

He is the president of the Hopkins County Joint Planning Commission on which he has served for 17 years and during four mayoral administrations. He is a state representative of the American Planning Association - Kentucky Chapter, APA-KY, and represents planning commissioners across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He serves on the Madisonville-Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

He is president of the Kentucky State Crime Stoppers Association and oversees 19 organizations across the state. He is a member of the Madisonville-Hopkins County NAACP and is an associated member of the Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. He is the cofounder

of the former African American Unity Committee and was instrumental in bringing back the former Rosenwald High School to the black community in Madisonville.

He is founder and host of a public service television program that has been on the air for 18 years, "Focus on Hopkins County." It has a viewership of over 100,000 people in Western and Southern Kentucky as well as in Northern Tennessee

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Governor's Volunteer Impact Award in 1998.

"Kentucky Human Rights Commissioner Thomas is an asset to us in the work to rule on discrimination complaints for the people of Kentucky and to raise awareness of civil rights across the state," said John J. Johnson, executive director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission. "His commitment to service is reflected by his leadership and involvement with a large number of organizations and government entities, and we congratulate Commissioner Thomas on this well-deserved award from the state Martin Luther King Jr. Commission," Johnson said.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, and through its affiliations with federal government, enforces the U.S. Civil Rights Act. For information, call 1.800.292.5566.