



**-Presented by Improvement League of Plant City, CDC-
Plant City Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Freedom Parade Application
Saturday January 17, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m – 2:30 p.m.
Theme “Ensuring Diversity, Integrity and Truth!”**



Name (Group/Organization/Individual) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Email: _____

Contact Phone () _____ Cell: () _____

Type of Unit (please check one)

Float **Car/Truck** **Walker(s)** **Band** -Name of School _____

Please provide a brief description of your entry, float, church and/or band.
(Number of cars or walkers, history of group, when church or band was founded, names of drum majors)

PARADE GUIDELINES

Position Line-up Numbers will be emailed and posted online at www.plantcitymlkfestival.com.
Line up Period is 1130am to 1245pm. The parade begins PROMPTLY at 1:00 p.m. ending by 2:30 p.m.
Parade Line-up starts at Wheeler & MLK Jr. Blvd. Heading east on MLK and ending at Martin Luther King Recreation center. No one younger than 12 years old will be allowed to walk in the parade.
All units are required to be decorated with the exception of public officials and Tampa Bay Corvette Posse.
No open dually style trailers will be permitted in the parade. Wheels “must” be under the platform of the trailer used. Exposed wheels are illegal according to City Ordinance.

Applicant shall indemnify and hold the **Improvement League of Plant City, CDC, DBA Plant City MLK Parade** harmless from any claims, damages, causes of action, suites, personal injuries and/or property damage (including attorney's fees and costs of defense at both the trial and appellate levels) resulting from the operation of the applicant's parade entry, any actions or inactions (including violation of any of the noted rules and regulations) of applicant or of any individuals participating, riding on, or walking with the applicant's parade entry. No registration fee. **Deadline is Friday January 9, 2026.**

I, the undersigned, have read the attached float diagram and am familiar with the rules and regulations governing the MLK Freedom Parade and agree to abide by them as set forth.

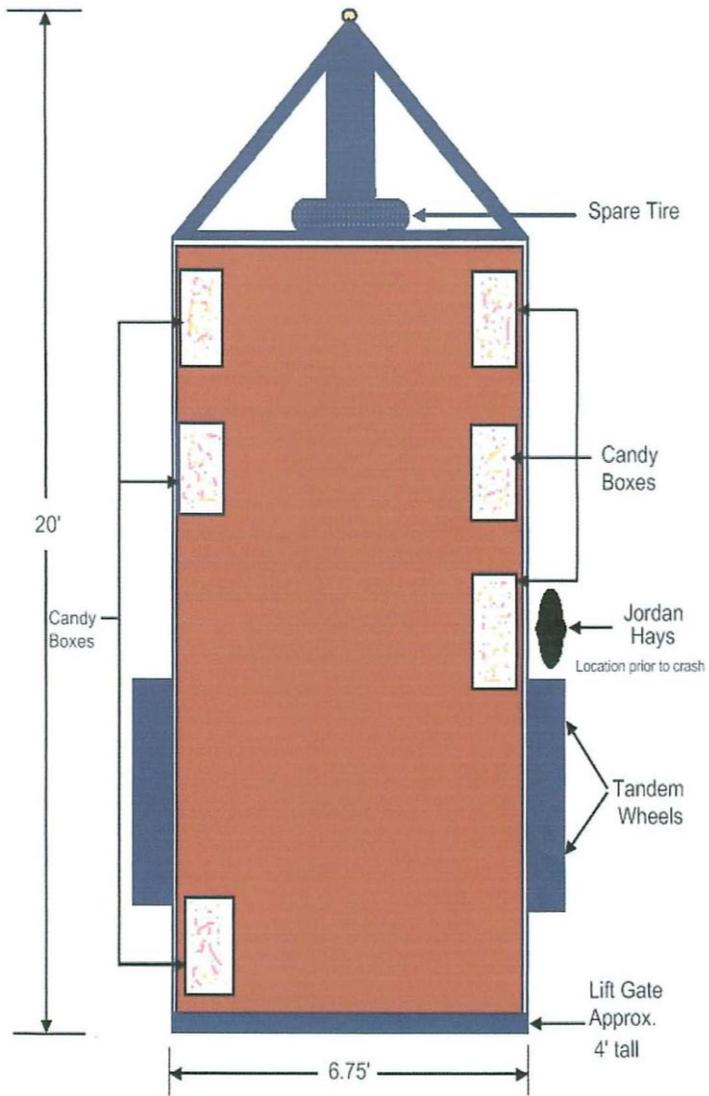
Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL OR EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO: Improvement League of Plant City, CDC,
Attn: **Plant City MLK Parade**, P.O. Box 5894, Plant City, FL 33564-5894

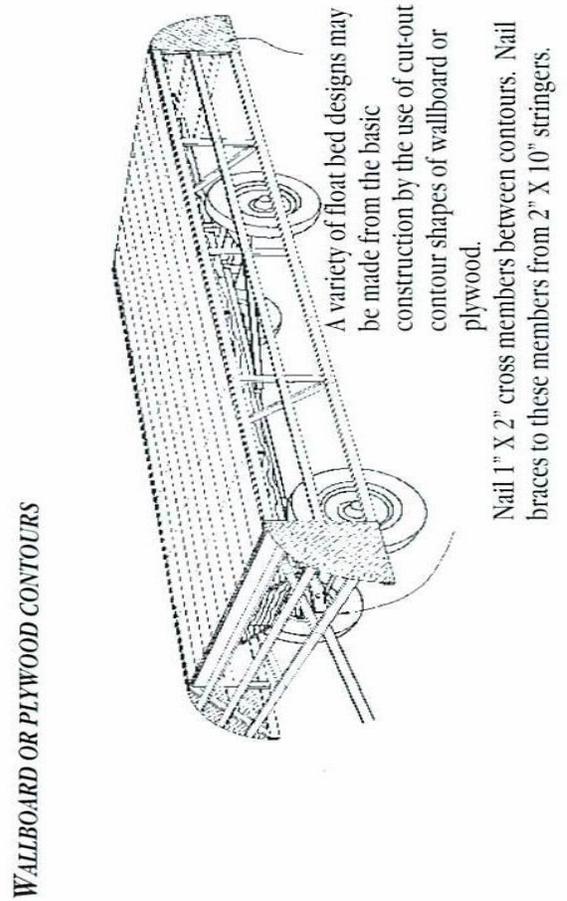
For any inquiries or questions please contact Bill Thomas Sr. at (813) 716-2324 email billthomaspc@gmail.com.

*Yes, Beads and candy can be handed out along the parade route!

EXAMPLE OF AN ILLEGAL FLOAT



EXAMPLE OF APPROVED FLOAT WHEELS MUST BE COVERED





IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE OF PLANT CITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5894, Plant City, FL 33564-5894 © (813) 757-6760

June 10, 2025

OFFICERS

William Thomas Jr.*
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Henry Johnson*
Vice-President
Daisy Gilmore
Secretary
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PROGRAMS

- *Economic & Workforce Development
- *Coronet Redevelopment
- *Forensic Science Class
- *www.plantcityjobs.com
- *Plant City Community Redevelopment Area (CRA)
- *Bing House Museum
- *College Scholarships
- *Historic Preservation
- *Cultural Activities
- *Civic Engagement
- *Free Veterans Disability Assistance
- *Blues, BBQ & Berries
- *Taste of Laura Street
- *Sports Hall of Fame
- *Lincoln IB Elementary
- *Marshall Gentlemen's Quest

RE: Plant City MLK Festival, Parade and Breakfast 2026

Greetings:

Improvement League of Plant City, Inc., sponsors a number of programs that include Youth Forensic Class, John Dicks College Scholarship Fund, Workforce and Economic Development Initiatives, Coronet Property Redevelopment (1100 acres), Bing House Museum, Taste of Laura Street and Blues, BBQ & Berries in downtown.

Plans are already underway for the 41st Annual Plant City MLK Festival and Parade. We will also continue the Plant City MLK Battle of the Bands where drumline/percussion sections compete for cash prizes.

The Drumline Competition will be coordinated by William Thomas Jr. working closely with the Parade Committee. Please email (only) drumline inquiries for follow up at this time. The primary purpose of the festival is again to have proceeds support the restoration of the Plant City Bing House Museum while providing a memorable venue during the weekend.

Other activities include an opening ceremony, various vendors, Leadership Breakfast, and Day of Service.

We appreciate those of you whom have given your time over the years to participate in the Plant City MLK Parade among the many other great parades in Plant City. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Thomas Sr. at (813) 716-2324. Email billthomaspc@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

William Thomas Jr.
President

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Festival
Jan 16 -19, 2026

Mission- Foster equitable opportunities for residents, regardless of age, sex, race or religion throughout the City of Plant City
www.improvementleague.com www.plantcitymlkfestival.com www.plantcitybinghouse.com