



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

55th Greater Hartford West Indian Independence Celebrations Confirmed

Hartford, CT— May 15, 2017 -- This year the Greater Hartford West Indian Independence Celebrations is marking its 55th anniversary and expecting a crowd of over 20,000 spectators to celebrate this annual tradition. The parade will take place on Saturday, August 12th with the route beginning at Main and Battles Streets, filtering on to Asylum Street then finally gathering inside Bushnell Park. The event will end with a free concert in the park featuring a host of locally based talent as well as international artistes. The legendary reggae/dancehall artist, Mr. Vegas is slated to be this year’s major headliner.

Mr. Vegas’s songs, which are well known to the people of Hartford, include hits such as “Sweet Jamaica” and “Bruk it Down”. In addition to Mr. Vegas, fans can expect to see many more artistes hailing from both local and international backgrounds. The popular soca artist from St. Lucia, Ricky T, and the ever versatile singer from Jamaica, Gem Myers, will be performing during the show. The very illustrious Jamaican comedian, Boasyboy Floyd, will be hosting once more. Also, the Caribbean band, Dis N Dat is scheduled to deliver reggae and soca hits to the masses.

This celebration will also feature marching bands, floats from various radio stations such as HOT 93.7, drill teams, masqueraders displaying vibrantly colored costumes, and dance troupes. Not to be missed is the array of vendors who will display their various wares and prepare delicious traditional cuisines from the Caribbean and beyond.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations has received many praises from City officials for previous years’ staging of the event. The event has been described as a true cultural experience and showcases the diversity of Hartford and surrounding towns. The West Indian Independence Celebrations Committee has worked closely with city departments including police, fire and public works to ensure that the event is incident free and runs smoothly.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations has hosted a parade every year since its inception in 1962. The organization looks forward to continuously improving upon the framework and looks forward to celebrating its 55th anniversary this year.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Greater Hartford Arts Council and to the Dwight Freeney Foundation for their contributions to making this event possible. The event relies heavily on grants and fundraising efforts. As is such,

the Committee is appealing to the public for their continued support by way of donations, placing an advertisement in the commemorative magazine, or by signing up to become a volunteer.

For more information on becoming to a sponsor, advertiser, volunteer, vendor, participant, or for performance related questions please contact the corresponding officers below. Also, feel free to visit our website at www.wiichartford.org or our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/wiic.hartford. All forms are available online.

The West Indian Independence Celebrations is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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