



February 2015
Bridgeport Public Education Fund, Inc.
446 University Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC BENEFIT.



Shown here from left to right are: Lamond Daniels, Joan Browning, Reginald Green and Dion Diamond.

Lamond Daniels, on behalf of Mayor Bill Finch, presented the three Freedom Riders with Keys to the City.

Dear Margaret,

Over 340 people had the privilege to hear Joan Browning, Dion Diamond and Reverend Reginald Green, three of the original Freedom Riders, on January 21, 2015 at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn.

The speakers were moved by the very diverse audience, in both age and race. College students, and high school students from all four Bridgeport High Schools studied the Freedom Ride, and learned more about the battle for voting and civil rights from the three eyewitnesses. Rev. Green's breaking into song during his remarks, and leading over 340 people in singing "We Shall Overcome" left few dry eyes in the audience.

As the three speakers spoke about their personal experiences, they emphasized the need for the new generation to be informed. Dion Diamond mentioned that he is truly worried that students think what currently is, is the way it has always been and that they lack the fire that his generation had to make change in this world. They were willing to sacrifice their lives because they knew ordinary people can make extraordinary things happen.

The Bridgeport Public Education Fund partnered with the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition to present this historic and moving event that has made a lasting impact on all who attended. Thank you Joan Browning, Dion Diamond, and Rev. Green, Bridgeport will not forget your historic actions.

Marge Hiller
Executive Director



Shown here from left to right are: Wiley Mullins, BPEF Board member, Dee Brassell, BCAC Chairperson, Joan Browning, Reginald Green, Dion Diamond, Marge Hiller, BPEF Executive Director and Mary Pat Healy, BCAC

Executive Director.

As the event concluded, all three speakers were presented with paintings from historic photos taken when the Freedom Rides were taking place.



Students from Bassick High School arrived to the Freedom Riders event with signs reminiscent of other historic bus photos taken during the civil rights demonstrations.