

Christina Shelton

From: Rabbi Heber <rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Doug Pons;Dustie McCay
Subject: Re: Invite to Menorah Lighting

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the City of Williamsburg mail system -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Mr. Mayor Doug Pons, and copied Dustie McCay,

Thanks for calling me this morning, and we look forward to having you this evening at the menorah lighting.

Here is a proposed proclamation, This would give tremendous Support to our Jewish community here in Williamsburg during the event and these difficult time.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Rabbi Mendy Heber
Chabad Williamsburg VA
757-929-4999

WHEREAS, Chanukah celebrates the victory in the year 165 BCE of a small yet determined army of Maccabees against their Syrian-Greek oppressors, and Chanukah has come to represent the victory of right over might, light over darkness, and freedom over oppression; and

WHEREAS, Chanukah, known as the Festival of Lights, is among the most widely celebrated of the Jewish holidays and is a time for joyous family gatherings and the kindling of the Menorah; and

WHEREAS, the central tenet of Chanukah is to publicize and celebrate the miracle which occurred over 2,000 years ago in the Maccabees' heroic battle to preserve their religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, the message of Chanukah resonates powerfully with the fundamental values of American life and culture, and the great principles of equality and religious freedom upon which was founded this great nation; and

WHEREAS, this year's celebration comes as so many will be isolated at home amid these difficult times and with the recognition of the crucial need for a message of hope and healing, and

WHEREAS, centers of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in the Virginia Commonwealth have initiated a series of safe events, as a part of the worldwide Chanukah campaign, an initiative launched by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, in 1973, highlighting the enduring message of Chanukah and its message of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, events in the City of Williamsburg, occur during the Chanukah festival, coinciding this year from Dec 7th to Dec 14th.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Doug Pons, Mayor OF THE City of Williamsburg OF Virginia, do hereby proclaim Dec 7th, 2023

In the City of Williamsburg.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Williamsburg, this [Date] day of [Month], [Year]

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 5:41 AM Rabbi Heber <rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org> wrote:
Amazing, looking forward to the call

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023, 6:39 AM Doug Pons <DPons@williamsburgva.gov> wrote:
Yes Sir!

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From: Rabbi Heber <rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 6:37:34 AM
To: Doug Pons <DPons@williamsburgva.gov>
Subject: Re: Invite to Menorah Lighting

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What around 10:15am work for you?

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023, 8:57 PM Doug Pons <DPons@williamsburgva.gov> wrote:
Good evening,

I look forward to attending. May I call you tomorrow? When is best for you?

Doug

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From: Rabbi Heber <rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:24:22 PM

To: Doug Pons <DPons@williamsburgva.gov>

Subject: Re: Invite to Menorah Lighting

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the City of Williamsburg mail system -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Mr. Douglas,

Kindly let me know if this event fits your schedule and when would be best to discuss the messaging over the phone,

I look forward to hearing from you,

Rabbi Mendy Heber
Chabad Williamsburg VA
757-929-499

On Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 2:00 PM Rabbi Heber <rabbi@jewishwilliamsburg.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Douglas,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you as Rabbi Mendy Heber from Chabad of Williamsburg, VA. We fondly recall your valuable contribution last year during the holiday season when you graciously addressed our community at the menorah lighting ceremony.

We are organizing this year's Menorah Lighting event which we are excited to share with you.

Event Details: Date: December 7th **Time:** 5:00 PM **Location:** Sunken Garden at William & Mary.

We would be greatly honored if you could join us once more and share a few words with the Jewish community at this event. Your presence and insights were immensely appreciated last year, and we believe your participation this year would add significantly to the spirit of the occasion.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you can accept this invitation. We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you again.

Warm regards,

Rabbi Mendy Heber Chabad Williamsburg, VA 757-929-4999