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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER OBTAINS  
RARE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION, SIGNED BY LINCOLN**

*Document will be on special display from Presidents' Day  
through the end of Black History Month*

Philadelphia, PA (February 8, 2007) – President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella announced today that the National Constitution Center has obtained a rare printing of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Abraham Lincoln, one of the last such documents in private hands. This extraordinary document will be on special display inside the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, for Presidents' Day weekend, and will remain on view through the end of February, in honor of Black History Month. The document will then be "rested" before going back on display this summer, and will be regularly displayed through 2017.

"We are honored and thrilled to be the home for this signed Emancipation Proclamation, one of the rarest, most valuable, and most significant documents in American history," said Torsella. "Although we are not a collecting institution, there are certain exceptional artifacts that are the touchstones of the constitutional story, and the Emancipation Proclamation tops that list. With the possible exception of the Bill of Rights, no document in American history has had a more profound impact on the Constitution. And with the possible exception of the Declaration of Independence, no document has had a more profound impact on the American vision of liberty. It is truly a treasure, and it deserves to be seen by, and to inspire, generations to come."

National Constitution Center Chairman, President George H.W. Bush, said, "We are delighted to acquire this wonderful and precious historic treasure. The Emancipation Proclamation was one of the most important presidential acts in American history. It set our nation on a true course toward the realization of our founding ideals."

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## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION/ADD TWO

National Constitution Center Board of Trustees member Steven Galbraith purchased the document from a private collector for the express purpose of lending it to the Center for its main exhibition. The sale was brokered by Seth Kaller, Inc. of White Plains, NY.

President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 (two years into the Civil War), and with his signature, the document authorized the freeing of slaves in the rebel states. Lincoln was quoted as saying, "I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper."

The signed war-time printing, known as the Leland-Boker Authorized Edition of the Emancipation Proclamation, contains the entire text of the historic declaration. Printed in June 1864 in a run of only 48 copies, the folio broadsides were signed by President Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward and intended for sale at the Philadelphia Great Central Sanitary Fair of 1864 to raise money for sick and wounded soldiers. Only half of these original copies are thought to have survived, and they are in the collections of museums, libraries, and historical societies, and those of a few private collectors.

In addition to displaying the Emancipation Proclamation in the National Constitution Center's main exhibition, the Center will also develop teacher materials about the period in which the document was created, using the Proclamation as a primary source document.

Admission to the National Constitution Center is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, college students, and children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells

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## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION/ADD LAST

the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, “Freedom Rising”. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For an extensive description and history of the Emancipation Proclamation, please visit [www.sethkaller.net](http://www.sethkaller.net).