

Descendant of Mississippi Senator Connected to Jim Crow Legacy Returns Home to Promote Dialogue and Healing

An Evening of Purpose, Power & Possibility with Charles Sims”

— YOU ARE INVITED —

COMMUNITY

LISTENING & HEALING GATHERING

— with Charles G. Sims —

“ We can choose division, or we can choose dialogue.
We can choose silence, or we can choose understanding.
We can keep talking about one another or we can begin
talking to one another. ”

Charles G. Sims



Saturday, August 29, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Ocean Springs Senior Center
514 Washington Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564



A MOMENT TO LISTEN.
A MOMENT TO REFLECT.
A MOMENT TO HEAL.



The gathering comes one day after the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s “I Have a Dream” speech, a message of hope, courage, understanding and the importance of choosing to move forward together.



EVERYONE IS INVITED.



Faith leaders • Business owners • Elected officials • Civic organizations
Neighborhood representatives • Residents • Community members

Ocean Springs, Mississippi Aug 27, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Charles Sims, the third-great-grandson of former U.S. Senator James Z. George, will return to his hometown of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on Saturday, August 29, 2026, for a public gathering centered on listening, compassion, historical responsibility and community healing.

Sims is publicly extending an invitation to the mother and father of Nolan Wells to meet with him if they are willing. He is also inviting Ocean Springs residents, faith leaders, business owners, elected officials and civic leaders to participate in a respectful community conversation.

The gathering will take place from **11 a.m. until noon at the Ocean Springs Senior Center, 514 Washington Avenue in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.**

Sims said he has intentionally remained silent until now out of respect for the Wells family.

"I believe families deserve space, and I believe there are moments when listening must come before speaking," Sims said. "I am coming home to listen, extend a hand, offer compassion and, if the family will allow me, be present in the difficult work of healing."

The matter involving Nolan Wells has attracted attention and commentary from numerous national voices, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, Officer Brandon Tatum, Pastor Jamal Bryant, Nancy Grace and others.

Sims believes the time has come for someone raised in Ocean Springs to return home and engage directly with the community—not to assign blame, but to encourage honest dialogue about pain, responsibility and the path forward.

His return carries additional historical significance because of his family connection to former Senator James Z. George; a prominent Mississippi political figure whose legacy is associated with the legal and political structures of Jim Crow.

"I come home knowing the weight of my own family history," Sims said. "I cannot change what was done before me, but I can choose what I do with that legacy now."

Sims said confronting history does not require descendants to accept personal responsibility for actions they did not commit. However, he believes people can acknowledge the consequences of history and choose to use their voices to advance understanding, reconciliation and justice.

"I can choose to listen," Sims said. "I can choose to extend a hand. I can choose compassion. And I can decide that the legacy I leave behind will be shaped by what I do to bring people together."

The event is scheduled one day after the anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. King delivered the historic address on August 28, 1963, during March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Sims said the anniversary is a reminder that progress requires hope, courage and a willingness to move

forward together—even when conversations are uncomfortable.

The August 29 gathering will focus on listening to the experiences, concerns and hopes of Ocean Springs residents. Sims wants to hear from people who have been directly affected, as well as community leaders who are prepared to participate in constructive dialogue.

“This is not about attacking Ocean Springs,” Sims said. “This is about loving a community enough to ask difficult questions and caring enough to listen to the answers.”

Sims believes Ocean Springs now has an opportunity to determine how it will respond to a moment that has generated pain, questions and national attention.

“Ocean Springs does not have to let this moment define it,” Sims said. “But it does have to decide what it will do with this moment.”

According to Sims, communities facing difficult circumstances are frequently presented with a choice: division or dialogue, silence or understanding, accusation or conversation.

“We can continue talking about one another, or we can begin talking to one another,” Sims said. “Real healing begins when people are willing to sit together, listen honestly and recognize one another’s humanity.”

Sims emphasized that the invitation to Nolan Wells’ parents is being made without pressure or expectation. Their attendance has not been confirmed, and he intends to respect the family’s decision.

“This is a sincere, open and respectful invitation,” Sims said. “I am coming home not simply to speak, but to listen.”

Before his arrival, Sims is seeking input from community, faith, business and political leaders, as well as individuals directly affected by the matter. His social-media direct messages remain open to those who want to share information, concerns or recommendations.

EVENT INFORMATION

What: Charles Sims Community Listening and Healing Gathering

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Time: 11 a.m.–Noon

Location: Ocean Springs Senior Center

Address: 514 Washington Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Media Contact

ENZO

*****@gmail.com

<http://www.enzoentertainment.com>

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