



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Mark Schaming 

SUBJECT: Update on Draft Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation Encasement Project

DATE: October 4, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The State Library holds the draft of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in President Abraham Lincoln's hand. The document recently was conserved and placed into a new, state-of-the-art encasement. Staff at the State Library and State Archives will share highlights of the document's history and its recent conservation and encasement.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Background Information

The draft Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, written in President Lincoln's own hand, has been in the State Library's collections since 1865. President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War on September 22, 1862, ordering that in 100 days the federal government would deem all slaves free in those states still rebelling against the Union.

A new special encasement for the document was recently designed and fabricated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The state-of-the-art encasement was entirely custom-designed to provide a stable microclimate for the document and is equipped with a 24/7 monitoring system. The encasement will ensure the continued preservation of this iconic national treasure for future generations.