



AGENDA ITEM #3S
January 29, 2019
ACTION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

HANS RIEMER
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

TO: Council Colleagues

FR: Hans Riemer 

DT: January 25, 2019

RE: Amended version of "Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission"

Attached are an edited and clean copy of the resolution introduced this past Tuesday with technical amendments suggested by staff. These amendments do not change the substance of this resolution. I intend to move these amendments at Tuesday's Council session.

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Hans Riemer, Will Jawando, and Craig Rice
Co-sponsors: Councilmembers Andrew Friedson, Sidney Katz, Gabe Albornoz, Nancy Navarro,
Tom Hucker, Evan Glass

SUBJECT: Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission

Background

1. Lynchings are violent and public acts of racial terrorism against African-Americans that occurred primarily between 1880 and 1940 across the United States.
2. At least three lynchings took place in Montgomery County: George W. Peck on January 10, 1880; John Diggs on July 24, 1880; and Sidney Randolph on July 4, 1896. John Diggs and Sidney Randolph were both lynched after being abducted from the Montgomery County Jail in Rockville, where the Council Office Building stands today. These lynchings are part of Montgomery County's troubled history of violence and discrimination against African-Americans. The County was home to thousands of enslaved individuals and the economy benefited from the exploitation of their labor. Following emancipation, segregation was enforced in schools, public facilities, and housing. Covenants and zoning plans were adopted to separate African-Americans and White people, while inadequate and unequal services were provided to African-American neighborhoods and residents.
3. The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) has documented more than 4,000 lynchings from over 800 counties in the United States as part of its Community Remembrance Project. To recognize the victims of these lynchings and spread knowledge of America's legacy of slavery and racial injustice, EJI created The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened to the public on April 26, 2018, in Montgomery, Alabama.
4. The first memorial of its kind, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice contains monuments for each county where lynchings have been documented. EJI invites these communities to collect and display soil from the sites, place historical markers at the sites of lynchings, and claim their monuments.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

- 1) A Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission is established to support the goal of bringing the community together to claim our monument and promote understanding of our history.
- 2) The Commission ~~[[shall]]~~ must be comprised of community leaders, who will work with EJI and other stakeholders to help the County:
 - a) claim and install the County's monument commemorating the three locations in the County where lynchings have been documented;
 - b) create and install historical markers for each of the three locations;
 - c) collect and display soil from each of the three locations;
 - d) design programs to advance the dialogue that the monument, historical markers, and soil should foster
- 3) The Commission ~~[[shall]]~~ must have ~~[[at least]]~~ ten (10) public members, ~~[[who will be nominated]]~~ appointed by the County Executive ~~[[in consultation]]~~ after consulting with the Office of Human Rights, ~~[[and confirmed]]~~ subject to confirmation by the Council. The Commission ~~[[will]]~~ must have eight (8) ex officio members, including one representative each from the following organizations:
 - a) Montgomery County Human Rights Commission;
 - b) Rockville Human Rights Commission;
 - c) Lincoln Park Historical Foundation;
 - d) Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission;
 - e) Maryland Lynching Memorial Project;
 - f) Arts & Humanities Commission of Montgomery County;
 - g) Montgomery College; and
 - h) Montgomery County Public Schools.
- 4) The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights ~~[[will]]~~ must provide staff support to the Commission.
- 5) The Commission ~~[[will provide]]~~ must submit an annual report of its activities to the Executive and Council each December. In December of 2022, the Commission ~~[[will]]~~ must include in its annual report an estimated timeline to complete its work.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

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