

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, and Gabe Albornoz

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 be comprised of community leaders, who will work with EJI and other stakeholders to:
 - 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 have at least ten (10) public members, who will be nominated by the County Executive in consultation with the Office of Human Rights and confirmed by the Council. The Commission will have 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
 - h) Montgomery County Public Schools
- 4) The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights will provide staff support to the Commission.
- 5) The Commission will provide an annual report of its activities to the Executive and Council. In December of 2022, the Commission will 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