



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: FileID

Substitute

1/22/2019

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 5

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All

A Resolution by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Erect a Permanent Monument Memorializing DeKalb Victims of Racial Terrorism

Information Contact: Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Phone Number: 404-371-2159

PURPOSE:

To approve the substitute resolution by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Erect a Permanent Monument Memorializing DeKalb Victims of Racial Terrorism

NEED/IMPACT:

.The Governing Authority of DeKalb County supports the Remembrance Project Initiative of DeKalb's chapter of the NAACP, which seeks to recognize and memorialize incidents of racial terrorism perpetrated throughout the USA and in localities, including DeKalb County. The Remembrance Project is informed by the work of the Equal Justice Initiative, headquartered in Montgomery, who recently opened its Memorial to Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum there. DeKalb NAACP has two elements of the Remembrance Project, a historical marker (similar in form to those found at historic sites throughout Georgia) on the Courthouse Square to recognize the occurrence of such acts of racial terrorism here and across the south, and a parallel effort to "claim" an element of the National Memorial for display in DeKalb County. The attached resolution is intended to initiate the erection of the historical marker.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Cost of installation of marker donated Equal Justice Initiative

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to Erect a Permanent Monument Memorializing DeKalb Victims of Racial Terrorism and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute all necessary documents..

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO ERECT A PERMANENT MONUMENT MEMORIALIZING DEKALB COUNTY VICTIMS OF RACIAL TERRORISM

WHEREAS, it is documented that thousands of African Americans were victims of racial violence in the United States between the Civil War and after World War II, including death by mob violence without due process of law, otherwise known as lynching;

WHEREAS, lynching is racial violence intended to facilitate an unjust social order;

WHEREAS, lynching specifically targeted African-Americans and significantly marginalized them from the county's political, economic, and social systems; and precipitated a massive migration of African-Americans from the Deep South;

WHEREAS, lynching and other forms of racial terrorism inflicted deep traumatic and psychological wounds on survivors, witnesses, family members and the entire African-American community;

WHEREAS, lynchings and other extrajudicial mob violence occurred most frequently in southern states including Georgia;

WHEREAS, the number of unreported lynchings is unknown and may never be discovered or quantified, there is documented evidence that several lynchings took place in DeKalb County;

WHEREAS, it is believed that many African-Americans in Georgia and in DeKalb County continue to experience the lasting effects of racial terrorism;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Governing Authority recognizes the importance of publicly confronting the truth about its history;

WHEREAS, public commemoration plays a significant role in promoting community-wide discussion, recovery and reconciliation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Governing Authority, that a permanent marker be erected on the grounds of the DeKalb County Courthouse commemorating and memorializing the lives of those DeKalb victims impacted by racial terrorism, especially those victims of lynching and other extrajudicial mob violence and acknowledging the impact this violence and other forms of racial terrorism have had on African-American communities within DeKalb County.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this 22nd day of January , 2019.

JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2019.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE ERNSTES
County Attorney

January 22, 2019