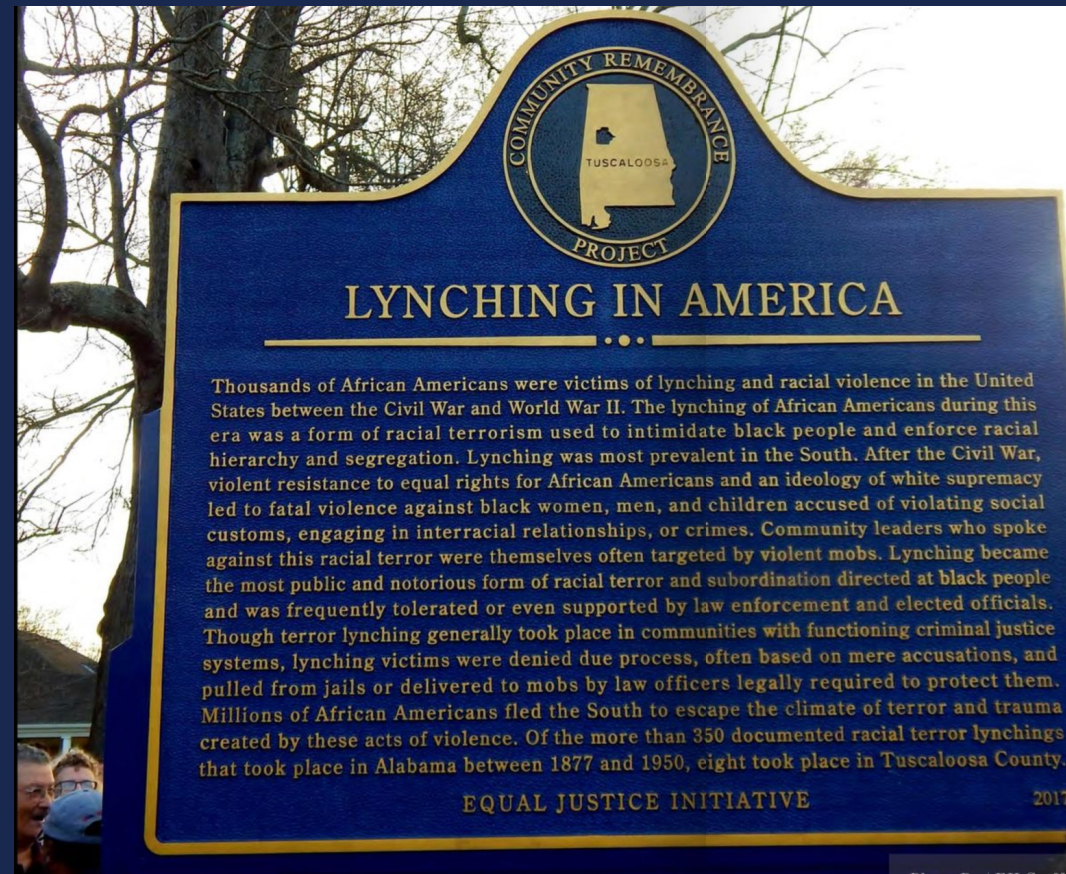


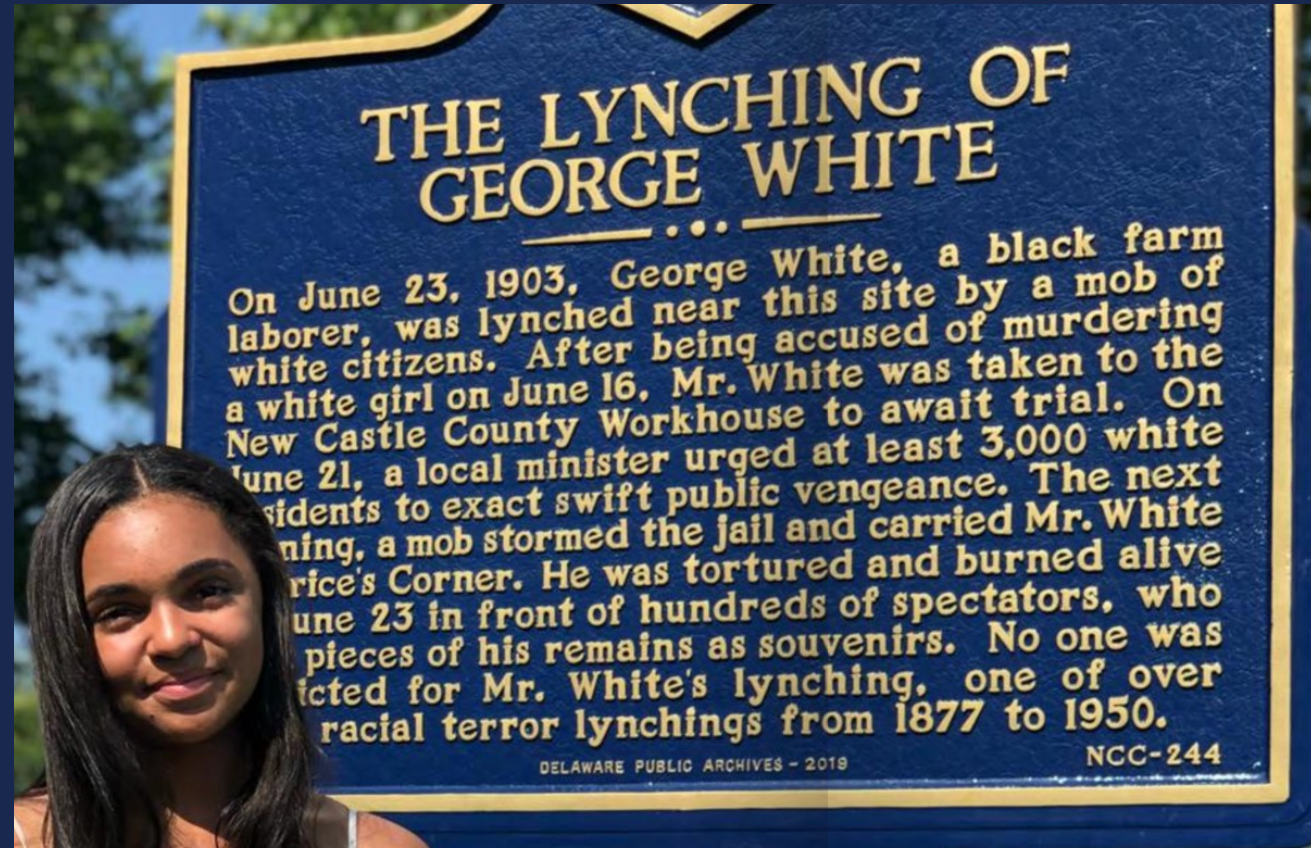
CALL TO ACTION:

Franklin BOMA to Vote on Racial Terror Markers – Date TBD



Example from Delaware

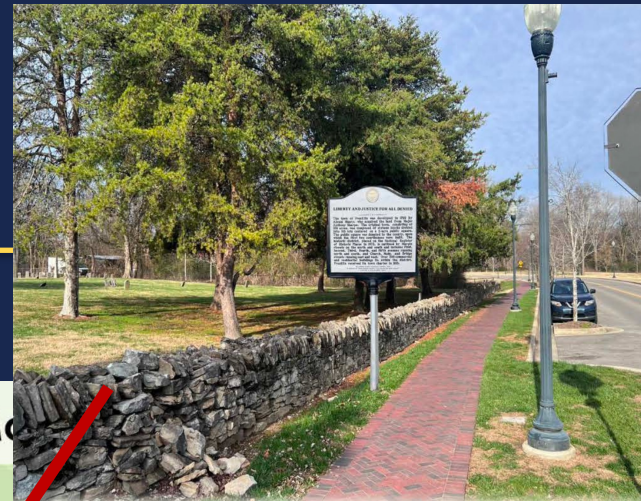
- “murdering a white girl”
- Minister encourages racial violence
- “tortured and burned alive...in front of hundreds of spectators, who [kept] pieces of his remains as souvenirs.”
- “racial terror lynchings”



Racial Terror Markers

- MFL-WC has spoken out against Critical Race Theory and how it racializes our children and our community
- Mayor Ken Moore supports Williamson County “Racial Terror Markers” to be installed in 3 prominent locations
- “Only the beginning” of the plan
 - The full extent has not been specified
- Violence in graphic detail
 - How is this appropriate for the youngest in our community?
- How does this heal wounds or promote unity in Wm County?
- **ANSWER: It doesn't.**
 - But that is the point of CRT: to stoke racism and division in the name of “anti-racism” or “reconciliation”

Three Locations



NW Corner of MLK Ave and N. Margin St



SW Corner of MLK Ave and N. Margin St



Downtown Franklin Traffic Circle

Terror Marker #1

- “White lynch mobs”
- “Racial terrorism”
- Lynching
- Murder
- Violence

WILLIAMSON COUNTY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT - MARKER NO. 1

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, DENIED

The end of the Civil War in 1865 led to a period of opportunity and equal rights known as the Reconstruction Era, 1865-1877. By the 1880s, federal troops had left the South and neither Congress nor the federal courts took steps to protect civil rights of Black people. In *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) the Supreme Court ruled separate but equal was the law of the land. "Jim Crow" segregation was the result in politics and the courts for the next 70 years. Schools and most public spaces were segregated by race. The right of Black men to vote, to serve in juries, and to hold public office were severely limited, if not eliminated. Nor did government protect Black citizens from extra-legal violence and domestic terrorism. Denied free and impartial trials, too many Black citizens became victims of White lynch mobs. Lynchings of African Americans were one of the most public and brutal forms of racial terrorism. Across the United States, at least 4,000 such lynchings occurred.

Williamson County did not escape this brutal period in history. Racially motivated lynchings, murder and violence targeted Black residents. The Remembrance Project believes that by confronting with honesty this history, our community will be stronger and more united in its quest to realize the promise of Liberty and Justice for All made by our nation's Founders.

This Marker is the first of three markers of the Williamson County Remembrance Project. Other markers are located at the City Cemetery.

Terror Marker #2

- “Racially motivated terror killings”
- Ku Klux Klan
- Lynchings answered by lynchings
- Hangings
- Anti-semitism
- “Shooting him to death and leaving his body in the street”

WILLIAMSON COUNTY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT - MARKER NO. 2

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, DENIED

In the summer of 1868, a series of documented racially motivated terror killings happened in Williamson County. On July 19th, local Ku Klux Klan members lynched an African American, William Guthrie, for allegedly assaulting Mary Ezell, a White woman. Next, unidentified African American residents killed John Ezell, Mary's brother, who they believed was guilty of Guthrie's lynching. The Klan escalated the violence by lynching three victims in August. An unidentified African American was hanged near the Bostick home, known as Everbright, on Carter's Creek Pike. Then the Klan next attacked White Jewish merchant, Samuel A. Bierfield, at his Franklin business, located at the present-day intersection of 4th Avenue and Main Street. It is believed that Mr. Bierfield was attacked because some Klan members suspected he was present when John Ezell was killed, and others believed Bierfield sympathized with the town's African American residents. The Klan lynched Bierfield by shooting him to death and leaving his body in the street. Bierfield's employee and formerly enslaved African American, Lawrence Bowman, also was shot by the Klan and died the following day from wounds sustained in the attack. Bierfield has been recognized as the first Jewish person lynched in the United States.

This Marker is the second of three markers of the Williamson County Remembrance Project. Other markers are in Franklin's Square and the City Cemetery.

Terror Marker #3

- “horrific racially motivated terror lynchings”
- “rape and murder”
- “raping a child”
- “raped a white child”
- Public hanging from the courthouse
- Public hanging from bridge

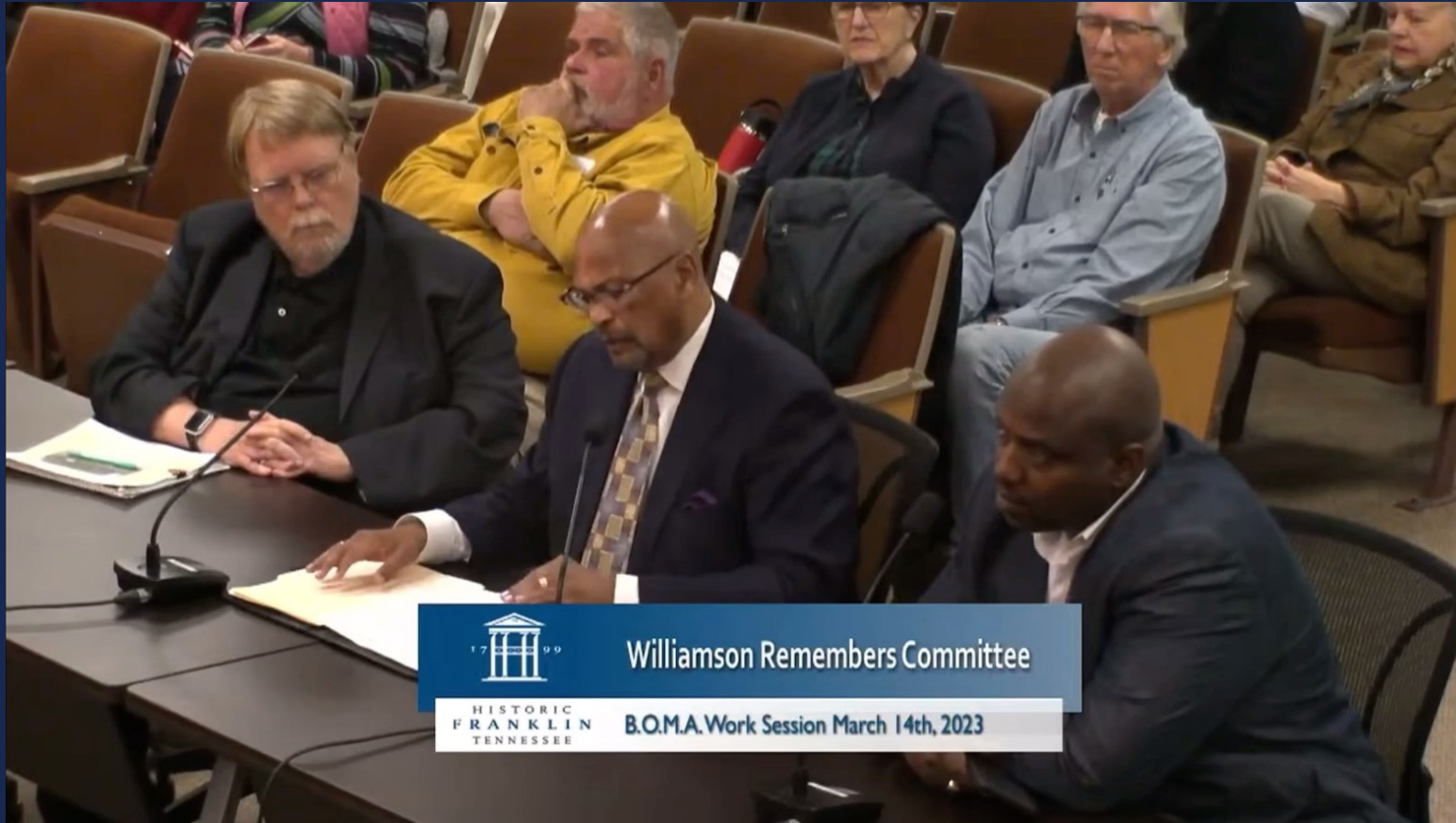
WILLIAMSON COUNTY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT - MARKER NO. 3

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, DENIED

Between 1877 and 1891, the following five horrific racially motivated terror lynchings of African American men took place in Williamson County. On March 18, 1877, masked men violently took Jim Walker, accused of rape and murder, from the County Courthouse and hanged him, without a trial. In 1878, a White lynch mob took Calvin Beatty from the county jail for allegedly raping a child and hanged him at a location near Moores Lane. In October that year another White lynch mob chased John Thomas, who it alleged raped a White child, for 3 miles before hanging him outside Franklin. On August 10, 1888, members of the local Ku Klux Klan violently removed Amos Miller, who was accused of the rape of a White woman, from the courtroom at the County Courthouse and hanged him from the courthouse's second story rather than allow him a fair trial. On April 30, 1891, a White lynch mob took Jim Taylor, accused of shooting a police officer, and hanged him on the Murfreesboro Road Bridge near downtown Franklin.

This Marker is the third of three markers of the Williamson County Remembrance Project. Other markers are in Franklin's Square and the City Cemetery.

Appeal by “Williamson Remembers”



Responses from BOMA



Alderman At Large **Gabrielle Hanson**



Alderman Ward 4 **Patrick Baggett**



Alderman Ward 3 **Jason Potts**



Alderman Ward 1 **Beverly Burger**

Email, Call & Text

- Franklin Mayor – **Ken Moore** - ken.moore@franklintn.gov
- Ward 1 Alderman – **Bev Burger** - bev@aldermanburger.com
- Ward 2 Alderman – **Matt Brown** - matt.brown@franklintn.gov
- Ward 3 Alderman – **Jason Potts** - alderman.potts@franklintn.gov
- Ward 4 Alderman – **Patrick Baggett** - patrick.baggett@franklintn.gov
- Alderman At Large – **Ann Petersen** - annpetersen@comcast.net
- Alderman At Large – **Clyde Barnhill** - clyde.barnhill@franklintn.gov –
- Alderman At Large – **Brandy Blanton** - brandy.blanton@franklintn.gov
- Alderman At Large – **Gabrielle Hanson** - gabrielle.hanson@franklintn.gov

<https://www.franklintn.gov/government/board-of-mayor-aldermen>

Public Comment Opportunities

- **Issue must go to Historical Commission**
 - Then back to BOMA in May or June
- **Standby for calls to action**
- LOCATION: Franklin City Hall (Downtown Franklin)
- TO SIGN UP: Walk in and take a public comment card, hand to city official