
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ACKNOWLEDGING AND REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
ADVANCE MEASURES RECOGNIZING THE FORTHCOMING CENTENNIAL OF
THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE.

1 WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, an incredible number of
2 Americans of African descent (African Americans) began to move
3 away from Southern states to escape the region's systemic lack
4 of opportunity; and

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6 WHEREAS, Tulsa County in Oklahoma, which reveled in
7 economic success under its title the "Oil Capital of the World,"
8 was an attractive destination for people seeking opportunities;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, due to the passage of Jim Crow
12 laws (or racial segregation laws) after the Reconstruction Act
13 of 1867, many Americans continued to believe and support the
14 ideas of white supremacy and thus, racial segregation and
15 oppression continued largely unabated after the Civil War; and

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17 WHEREAS, violent crimes such as lynching, which went
18 unchecked by the justice system, were committed to enforce
19 racial segregation and instill terror in the African American
20 population; and

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22 WHEREAS, pursuant to Jim Crow laws passed by the State of
23 Oklahoma and Tulsa County, the African Americans in Tulsa were
24 confined to the "Greenwood District", which they subsequently
25 developed into a nationally-renowned entrepreneurial center
26 known as the "Black Wall Street", with over ten thousand
27 residents by 1920; and

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29 WHEREAS, on May 30, 1921, Dick Roland, a nineteen year old
30 African American man, was alleged to have assaulted a white
31 teenaged girl under dubious circumstances, and propelled by the



1 sensational reporting by a local newspaper, the brewing
2 resentment amongst white Americans against the rising wealth and
3 success of African Americans, and a racially hostile climate in
4 general, white residents then instigated calls for the man's
5 lynching; and

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7 WHEREAS, on May 31, 1921, hundreds of white men having the
8 makings of a lynch mob congregated near the Tulsa County
9 Courthouse where Dick Roland was being held and demanded that he
10 be turned over to them; and

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12 WHEREAS, the arrival of a small group of armed African
13 American residents who came to the Courthouse to ensure Mr.
14 Roland's safety was interpreted by the white residents as a
15 "Negro uprising"; and

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17 WHEREAS, from May 31 to June 1, 1921, thousands of
18 weapon-wielding white persons invaded the Greenwood District and
19 decimated the African American community in what is now known as
20 the "Tulsa Race Massacre"; and

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22 WHEREAS, the local officials not only failed to take
23 actions to calm or contain the violence but aggravated it by
24 providing firearms and ammunition to and deputizing hundreds of
25 white men from the crowd that gathered as a potential lynch mob,
26 who in that capacity engaged in overt and often illegal acts
27 that destroyed the Greenwood community; and

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29 WHEREAS, the white mob indiscriminately killed numerous
30 African American residents and looted, damaged, deliberately
31 burned, or otherwise destroyed an estimated 1,256 homes, as well
32 as virtually every other structure in the Greenwood District
33 including churches, schools, businesses, the library, and the
34 only hospital; and

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36 WHEREAS, under martial law declared by the Governor of
37 Oklahoma, the Oklahoma National Guard arrested the remaining
38 6,000 residents of Greenwood, detained them in internment camps,
39 forced them to into labor, and refused to release them until a
40 white person applied for their release and vouched for their
41 subsequent behavior; and

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1 WHEREAS, in a period of less than twenty-four hours, the
2 white mob's violence led to the destruction of thirty-five
3 square blocks of the Greenwood District, deaths of an estimated
4 three hundred people, injuries of over eight hundred people,
5 property damage of over \$2,000,000, and nearly ten thousand
6 homeless African American Greenwood residents; and
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8 WHEREAS, local officials actively impeded the African
9 American Tulsans' effort to rebuild their community by refusing
10 support for reconstruction from other cities and imposing a
11 restrictive fire code that made rebuilding too expensive for
12 most residents; and
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14 WHEREAS, none of the state and local officials nor white
15 residents who participated in the massacre were held accountable
16 for their acts of violence or contributions thereto, as the
17 officials advanced a narrative that attributed the massacre to
18 Greenwood residents, which induced the all-white grand jury to
19 conclude that the African Americans caused the violence and the
20 attorney for the state gave immunity to all white persons who
21 looted the homes of or murdered African Americans; and
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23 WHEREAS, for decades, the terror, violence, and losses of
24 the massacre was largely omitted from local, state, and national
25 histories until the Oklahoma State Legislature created a
26 commission in 1997 to study the event; and
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28 WHEREAS, on February 28, 2001, the commission issued a
29 report that set forth a historical record of the massacre and
30 recommended that reparations be made to the identified survivors
31 and their descendants; and
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33 WHEREAS, despite the commission's recommendation,
34 reparations to the survivors of the massacre and their
35 descendants have not been made; and
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37 WHEREAS, the issues of systemic racism, police brutality,
38 and racially motivated violence and human rights violations
39 against Black people continue to exist in the United States; and
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41 WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the
42 Tulsa Race Massacre; and



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WHEREAS, in July 2020, resolutions to recognize the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre were introduced in both chambers of the United State Congress but neither received a vote; and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2021, resolutions to recognize the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre were again introduced in both chambers of the United States Congress, as S.Res. 104 in the United States Senate, sponsored by Senator Elizabeth Warren and twenty-five cosponsors, and H.Res. 205 in the United States House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and ninety-three cosponsors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature acknowledges the forthcoming centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body acknowledges the historical significance of this event not only to honor the lives and legacies of the African Americans killed during the massacre and those who were left to suffer from the loss of their homes and livelihoods, but also to condemn the continued legacy of racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the United States Congress are requested to take action to advance S.Res. 104 and H.Res. 215; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Governor of Oklahoma, Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the nine Councilors of the Tulsa City Council, and Chairperson of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission.

