



Proclamation



NAACP APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, today we celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); with approximately 500,000 members and 2,200 branches, the NAACP is the nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization and continues to be a powerful force for racial equality and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP was founded in 1909 in response to increasing violence against African-Americans; a specific catalyst was the 1908 race riot in Springfield, Illinois, when a mob of 5000 white people attacked the African-American population, committing murders and destroying neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP was a leading force in efforts to combat the Jim Crow laws in the American South; for example, Edgar D. Nixon, President of the Montgomery, Alabama chapter of the NAACP helped to organize and manage the Montgomery Bus Boycott in response to the arrest of civil rights icon and NAACP member, Rosa Parks; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP was instrumental in bringing the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* case to the Supreme Court; McKinley Burnett, President of the Topeka, Kansas branch of the NAACP organized the effort, and the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in favor of the plaintiffs in 1954 was a crucial victory in the battle for de-segregation; and

WHEREAS, efforts of the NAACP were also essential to the passage of key civil rights legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and many others; and

WHEREAS, these achievements were accomplished in an environment of continued hostility and violence toward African-Americans, including the murder of Harry Moore, founder of the NAACP branch in Brevard County, Florida, the lynching of 14-year old Emmett Hill, the assassination of NAACP member Medgar Evers, and many other horrific instances; and

WHEREAS, despite the successes of the NAACP, significant racial disparities and hostilities still exist in this country requiring continued activism and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the NAACP is "to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons;" this is a mission that our Board of Aldermen fully endorses, consistent with values embraced by the Carrboro community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim **April 7, 2019** as **NAACP Appreciation Day** in the Town of Carrboro.

This the 7th day of April 2019.

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor