

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### REMEMBERING THE TULSA MASSACRE

**WHEREAS**, Black people in Tulsa had created in the early twentieth century a thriving district in Greenwood known as the “Black Wall Street,” home to 10,000 residents and hundreds of businesses, a half century after overthrowing slavery in the southeast and among the Indian tribes resettled in Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 31, 1921 Black Tulsans, including World War I veterans, gathered at the courthouse to offer protection to an arrested Black man whom they feared would be lynched and were instead by armed white crowds that drove them back; and

**WHEREAS**, those armed white crowds then rampaged through the neighborhood of Greenwood, backed by deputized whites given weapons by city officials to use against Black Greenwood residents and by white pilots who dropped dynamite from planes overhead; and

**WHEREAS**, the mob killed perhaps 300 people, burned 35 blocks to the ground, obliterated dozens of grocery stores and restaurants and other business, destroyed nearly 1500 homes, and detained thousands of people in internment camps, doing nearly \$2 million in property damage in 1921 dollars (roughly \$27 million today); and

**WHEREAS**, the city of Tulsa then blocked Black residents from rebuilding, and insurance companies refused to pay out policies; and

**WHEREAS**, Tulsa schools and white civic officials silenced the history of the massacre and taught falsified versions of “riots,” even as Black Tulsans kept the memory alive and worked to rebuild their community; and

**WHEREAS**, many people in the United States, and even in Tulsa, still do not know about this mass murder and about the violent expropriation of property and land.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize the hundredth anniversary of the Tulsa massacre and call upon all its residents to remember the country’s history of oppression of Black people and to work to repair that history.

Date: June 7, 2021

  
GE'NELL GARY, MBA - MAYOR