

Additional Materials-Item #1

A RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE HARM CAUSED DURING THE GRAHAM STREET RAID OF 1990 (AKA OPERATION READI ROCK) AND EXTEND AN APOLOGY TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED BY THIS INCIDENT (2022-11-16/R-1)

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1990, Chapel Hill Police officers, with assistance from the State Bureau of Investigation and a host of other law enforcement agencies, executed a search warrant for the 100 block of Graham Street in Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, this raid, known as "Operation Read-Rock," was conducted by police officers and SBI agents wearing camouflage and black masks; and

WHEREAS, police officers ordered all people on Graham Street and inside a club known as The Village Connection, to either lay face down on the floor or stand against a wall with their hands up; and

WHEREAS, many of those searched said that police officers did not identify themselves, leading them to believe they were being robbed or attacked, while others reported being injured during these searches; and

WHEREAS, all of the those detained were Black and some detainees stated that Whites were allowed to leave the area; and

WHEREAS, charges against all of those who were arrested were subsequently dropped; and

WHEREAS, thirty-eight of the individuals who were searched and detained filed a lawsuit against the Town of Chapel Hill and individuals who authorized this raid; and

WHEREAS, the plaintiffs prevailed in their lawsuit, resulting in a settlement from the Town of Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Chapel Hill is committed to acknowledging and learning from our past, especially from incidents that caused harm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that,

The Town of Chapel Hill recognizes that to achieve racial equity, its' practices and policies must be examined, wrongs acknowledged, and harms mitigated; and

The Town of Chapel Hill acknowledges that the "War on Drugs" was a failed effort rooted in structural and institutional racism; and

The Town of Chapel Hill acknowledges that policing practices such as Operation Read-Rock disproportionately impacts communities of color perpetuating historical racial trauma; and

The Town of Chapel Hill recognizes that the Black residents who were on Graham Street that day and in the community experienced trauma and harm because of this raid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Chapel Hill extends an overdue apology to all community members impacted by this incident.

This the 16th day of November, 2022.