

2018 Report &  
Recommendations

# [18-0539] - Report and Recommendation of Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

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Town of Chapel Hill  
June 13, 2018

# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

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To: Chapel Hill Town Council

From: Ken Broun, Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force Chair

Re: Report and Recommendation of the Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

Date: June 13, 2018

As stated by Mayor Pam Hemminger, the purpose of the **Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force** was to create a timeline that identifies people, places and events which should be memorialized in order to remind everyone of the struggle for civil rights that African Americans endured in Chapel Hill in the 1960s and to the story of the role that Chapel Hill played in our nation's Civil Rights movement.

The Task Force was composed of 15 persons representing a broad range of individuals interested in the history of the civil rights movement in our community. Included in our number were individuals who had participated in the events that brought that movement to the attention of the town, the state and the nation.

We met as a Task Force on five occasions, beginning on November 30, 2017. We also formed one committee to deal with the creation of the timeline and another committee to study in depth the role of the students who participated in the seminal event in the struggle on February 28, 1960 – the Chapel Hill 9 sit-in at the Colonial Drug Store on Franklin Street. Both of these committees met several times.

Although the roots of the struggle began with the history of the town of Chapel Hill and continue to the present day, we decided to concentrate on the period from 1960-1969 as the most significant single period in the movement. In making that decision, we recognize that there were many persons deeply devoted to civil rights doing important things for the promotion of those rights both before and after those years. We hope that in honoring the participants active in the 1960s, we will also remember those who acted at other times.

In the course of our work, we were able to rely on many written sources, both published and unpublished. Although these written sources were important to the creation of the timeline, even more important were the memories of members of the Task Force and others who had been participants in the events set forth in the timeline.

I came to Chapel Hill in 1968. In listening to these accounts and reading the written sources, I experienced significant pain in fully realizing the oppressive atmosphere that existed in our community at the time that these events began to transpire. The segregation and deprivation suffered by our African American neighbors during that period was brought home to me and to the others who came to Chapel Hill at a later and at least somewhat more enlightened time. But in addition, I also experienced great admiration for the foresight, courage and strength of those individuals in Chapel Hill's African American community who led the struggle, especially the initial group of Lincoln High School students who began the demonstrations. They were and are truly remarkable people who deserve the admiration of all who now make Chapel Hill our home.

**The Task Force has four recommendations:**

1. That the Town of Chapel Hill adopt the timeline as prepared by the Task Force and include it on the Town Website. We also ask that posters showing the timeline and accompanying photographs be placed in Town Hall, the Chapel Hill Public Library and other public buildings.
2. That the Town participate with other community groups in planning a commemoration of the sit-ins at the Colonial Drug Stores to take place at a date near February 28, 2019.
3. That the Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee be authorized to continue its work on a recommendation for a historical marker honoring the non-violent direct action that sparked the Civil Rights movement in Chapel Hill.
4. That the name of Harold Foster be considered for recommendation to the Council Naming Committee for inclusion on the Peace and Justice Plaza marker.

I want personally to thank Mayor Hemminger for the honor of appointing me as chair of this Task Force and to thank all of the Task Force members for their diligent and enthusiastic work in helping the Task Force achieve its goals. It was a wonderful group with which to work.

Ken Broun  
Task Force Chair

## OVERVIEW

Mayor Pam Hemminger charged the Historic Civil Rights Commemorations (HCRC) Task Force with the creation of a timeline that identifies people, places and events “significant in the town’s Civil Rights struggle so that they may be commemorated in historical context by the Town, including the sit-in at the Colonial Drugstore and the Lincoln High Students (‘Chapel Hill Nine’) whose actions ignited the integration movement in Chapel Hill.”

The task force considered a number of guiding questions in developing the timeline to meet this charge:

- How do we create a shared history that is inclusive and open to new information?
- How do we share our work with current and future generations?
- How do we reconcile conflicting accounts of events in the timeline?
- How do we contextualize this timeline?
- How do we evaluate items for inclusion in the timeline?
- What dates should this timeline cover?

## GUIDING VALUES

The history of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill has been documented in notable secondary sources, including books, dissertations, Master's theses, and scholarly articles. The HCRC Task Force counted among its numbers three history makers, present at the very beginning of the modern Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill: Jim Merritt, Albert Williams, and Dave Mason. These members asked that we consider what has been largely omitted from existing histories: the contributions of native Chapel Hillians—young, black high school students whose actions provided the catalytic spark for the movement in Chapel Hill. Our work is in tribute to those who were, in the words of Harold Foster, “disobedient to those who told us to be obedient, but obedient to our own consciences.”

The task force met its charge to create a timeline of the important people, places, and events in Chapel Hill's Civil Rights Movement and, in so doing, developed a process for collecting community history that is:

- **Inclusive & Collaborative.** We want to learn from the community through conversation and listening. We seek to find, document, and share stories that have not been fully told. Finally, we hope to bring in to the conversation new generations of community activists with the stories of young people who sparked great change.
- **Transparent & Ethical:** We want to honestly grapple with primary source documents, existing oral histories, secondary source accounts, and memories of living history makers. We recognize that historical accounts don't always agree. Our work will emphasize areas of agreement as well as document and clarify events for which accounts diverge. We seek to clearly document all sources used in creating our timeline and acknowledge that history is imperfect. Our timeline is, and we hope will continue to be, a living document: open to new information and revision.
- **Timely.** The work of this task force began with the members of the Chapel Hill Nine, the Lincoln High School students who were arrested, charged, and found guilty of criminal trespass when they sat down for service inside Colonial Drug Co. in 1960. Of the nine, only 4 members are still living. We seek to honor these men and their compatriots for their actions within their lifetimes.

## OUTCOMES

Goal	Outcome/Result
<p><b>Deliver to Council a living document (that is, open to revision and new information) of Chapel Hill’s community history of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s</b></p>	<p>This report contains a timeline that includes important people, places, and events in the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill from 1960-1969.</p> <p>Timeline content was developed by task force members using existing historical documents, oral histories, secondary sources, firsthand accounts, and by seeking community input.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>This timeline shines a particular spotlight on 1960 when the movement was driven largely by high school students from the all-black Lincoln High School.</p> <p>The timeline is put into historical context with introductory and concluding remarks written by task force members.</p>
<p><b>Develop a collaborative process for collecting community history that brings history makers, historians, civic officials, and community members into conversation and agreement</b></p>	<p>The task force intentionally considered the collaborative framework and process throughout its work.</p> <p>Members explicitly stated the objective of this task force as a successful collaboration between history makers, historians, local government, and community members.</p> <p>Members sought to reach agreement with each other and with the historical record.</p>
<p><b>Design a mechanism for interactive community engagement<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<p>The task force practiced several methods of engaging the larger community in the work of the task force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online, in person, and by phone</li> <li>• Community flyers and notices in community organization newsletters and announcements in area faith group meetings &amp; services</li> <li>• Participation in Northside festival</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop a set of recommendations for commemorations</b></p>	<p>The task force subcommittee, The Chapel Hill Nine, developed a set of recommendations for timely commemorations. The full task force received and approved these recommendations. This subcommittee would like to continue its work on the historical marker recommendation which it will present to Council in early Fall 2018.<sup>3</sup></p>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix C: References and Appendix D and E: Community flyer and Community Input

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix D: Community Input

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix B: Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to meet its charge, task force members read existing secondary sources, conducted extensive research into local archives, consulted history makers and historians, and sought broad input, feedback, and agreement from the community. The task force sees great potential in continuing to develop interactive local history models for community engagement in collaboration with local government. Such models provide the space and mechanism for community participants to reckon with history, engage in difficult conversations about how that history impacts the present, and allows authentic connections to emerge. In that spirit, the task force recommends the following actions:

1. Share the work of the task force with the community:
  - Display the timeline throughout Town including the Town web site and on large-scale posters at Town Hall, the Library, Hargraves Community Center, and in other community centers as appropriate. <sup>4</sup>
  - Consider how this work might be developed into an interactive, engaging online history, like the SNCC Digital Gateway<sup>5</sup>. Include inter-generational collaborations in planning events, creating content, and developing interactive interfaces.
  - Plan/support the planning of community conversations that continue to contextualize and deepen the community's understanding of a shared history and its impact on the present. These discussions may include participants in the early sit-ins, historians, and community members in a public series to take place in Fall 2018.
2. Authorize the Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee to continue planning for a historical marker to honor the Lincoln High School students who sparked the movement in Chapel Hill. This group will report back with a full recommendation to Council in early Fall 2018.<sup>6</sup>
3. In the spirit of positive, community-driven celebration, participate with other community organizations in planning a commemoration event to mark the anniversary of the first sit-ins in Chapel Hill on February 28, 1960.
4. Consider recommending Harold Foster to the Council's Naming Committee for inclusion on the Peace and Justice Plaza marker.

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<sup>4</sup> See Appendix F: Visual Timeline Prototype (large scale poster version displayed at Northside Festival on April 29)

<sup>5</sup> SNCC Digital Gateway: <https://snccdigital.org/>

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix B: Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee



# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## **TIMELINE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN CHAPEL HILL: 1960-1969**

### **OPENING THE FLOODGATES: INTRODUCTION TO CHAPEL HILL'S CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE<sup>7</sup>**

The struggle for freedom has no beginning and no end. It is fought on many fronts, in many ways, and has many heroes, the names of most of whom we will never know. But there are moments and individuals who serve to quicken the spirit of a movement, who heighten its urgency, and who make it difficult to pretend that nothing is wrong. There are moments when a few individuals open the floodgates of change with their courage.

Fighting to defeat Nazism during World War II from 1941 to 1945 heightened consciousness about the evils of racism. African American veterans returning from that fight were not inclined to accept racism at home. It was during the years following the war that several important developments concerning civil rights occurred in Chapel Hill.

In April 1947, an interracial team of members of the national Congress of Racial Equality undertook a "Journey of Reconciliation" to challenge segregation on interstate bus travel in the South. By April 13<sup>th</sup> their journey brought them to Chapel Hill, where four of them were arrested, one was attacked, and all were threatened by violent segregationists. Rev. Charles M. Jones, then pastor of the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, risked much by taking the protestors to his home until they could safely leave the town. A historical marker has been placed near the corner of Rosemary and North Columbia Streets to mark the place where this incident occurred.

Both the Chapel Hill chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Chapel Hill Council on Negro Affairs were organized during the late 1940s as complementary organizations in the fight against racial discrimination. Interest in the NAACP was so high that in 1949, the local membership drive exceeded its goal. In 1951, the Council on Negro Affairs filed suit against the Chapel Hill School system for proposing to build a new Lincoln High School on Merritt Mill Road without a gym, auditorium or other facilities that were included in the plans for the new Chapel Hill High School for white students. Plaintiffs in that suit included a veteran who was also an African American business owner named Preston Weaver, as well as nine other men, several of whom were also veterans. Feeling the pressure, the school system agreed to provide equivalent facilities for both schools. In 1953, the Council had another victory when it championed the candidacy of Hubert Robinson to become the first African American member of the Chapel Hill Town Council in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Wilson Caldwell served on the Town Commission, as it was then known, in the 1880s). For that and other accomplishments, Mr. Robinson's name has been inscribed at the town's Peace and Justice Plaza.

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<sup>7</sup> Based on information taken from the PhD dissertation of Marcellus C. Barksdale, "The Indigenous Civil Rights Movement and Cultural Change in North Carolina: Weldon, Chapel Hill, and Monroe: 1946-1965," Duke University, 1977

The Brown versus Board of Education decision in 1954 put the nation's focus on the desegregation of public schools. In Chapel Hill the NAACP was in the forefront of that fight. Rev. J. R. Manley, pastor of First Baptist Church, became the first African American member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools Board of Education in 1959, and he worked closely with groups like the Citizens Committee and The Fellowship for Integration during that turbulent period.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960, four NC A&T college students sat-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro and launched a national movement of direct-action protests. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, nine young men who were students at the Lincoln High School launched the direct action movement in Chapel Hill. They were: William Cureton, John Farrington, Harold Foster, Earl Geer, Dave Mason, Jr., Clarence Merritt, Jr, James Merritt, Douglass Perry and Albert Williams. In his memoir of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill, John Ehle wrote, "The High School students from the Negro community revolted first." Professor Barksdale observed that "...the civil rights movement in Chapel Hill was one of sustained intensity - from February 1960 through the spring of 1964. Hardly a week passed during that time that there was no development..." The floodgates had been opened.

DR. REGINALD HILDEBRAND

*Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force  
Spring 2018*

## TIMELINE

<b>FEB 1 1960</b>	Greensboro sit-in prompts debate among students <b>at Lincoln High School</b> in Chapel Hill.
<b>FEB 8-15 1960</b>	<p>Lincoln High School students continue to talk and plan. Evidence in <i>Chapel Hill News</i> 3-part series: "Report On Integration."</p> <p>February 15 report includes an interview with Lincoln High School students in the Lincoln High School cafeteria, where much of the strategy and planning for future action took place.</p> <p>The students interviewed: <b>William Cureton, David Mason, Garrett Weaver, Lonita Terrell, Rene Booth, and Harold Foster.</b> Harold Foster quote, in response to questions about segregated business in Chapel Hill: "We have a 'rebuttal' planned to take place before the next paper comes out. You may have front page news for Monday."<sup>8</sup></p>
<b>MID-FEB 1960</b>	<p>Core group of Lincoln High School students test segregation status quo at <b>Long Meadow Dairy.</b> "Strike settled without dispute."<sup>9</sup></p> <p>Planning continues throughout the month at Lincoln High School, "after school at <b>M 'n' N's Grill</b>, and late at night on the <b>Rock Wall</b>"<sup>10</sup></p>
<b>FEB 28 1960</b>	<p>First organized sit-ins in Chapel Hill occur at <b>Colonial Drug</b> on Franklin Street, staged by Lincoln High School students. Two sit-ins on February 28: morning and evening<sup>11</sup></p> <p>Protests continue on February 29 and March 1, focused on "four downtown business" with the primary concentration on Colonial Drug<sup>12</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75-100 Lincoln students at February 29 protests.</li> <li>• <b>Harold Foster</b> named as one of the leaders of the protestors.</li> <li>• High school students inspired separate demonstrations by university students (about 50-100 students from UNC, Duke, and North Carolina College in Durham (now NC Central))</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> *Chapel Hill News* February 15, 1960

<sup>9</sup> *Chapel Hill News* March 3, 1960

<sup>10</sup> John K. Chapman thesis, p. 113

<sup>11</sup> Several differing accounts of this day from various oral histories and first person accounts. **David Mason, Albert Williams, Jim Merritt, and Doug Perry** agree that the morning sit-in, which occurred after church included Chapel Hill Nine members: **Clarence Merritt Jr, Douglas Perry, James Merritt, Harold Foster, Dave Mason, Jr., William Cureton, Albert Williams, Earl Geer, and John Farrington.** According to accounts by Harold Foster (1974 interview), James Brittain, and Thomas Mason (interviews with Yonni Chapman), in the evening, William Cureton, Earl Geer, Thomas Mason, and James Brittain, Harold Foster, James Merritt, and an 1 other unnamed protestor. Foster claims not to have been at the protest earlier in the day. According to interviews, warrants were issued for arrests Thomas Mason and James Brittain. Since both under 15 they were sent to juvenile court. No reports of these arrests or the appearance of Mason and Brittain in juvenile court were made in the paper.

<sup>12</sup> *Chapel Hill News* March 3, 1960

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Daily Tar Heel</i> includes name and image of <b>David Dansby</b> holding a picket sign. Dansby is first African American undergraduate student at UNC.<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• <b>Hilliard Caldwell</b>, age 23, native Chapel Hillian and UNC employee, acts as advisor to Lincoln High School students and is named as a leader in both <i>Chapel Hill News</i> and <i>Daily Tar Heel</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>MAR 1 1960</b>	<p>Mass meeting at <b>Roberson Street Community Center</b> leads to formation of Chapel-Hill Carrboro Committee for Racial Equality.<sup>14</sup></p> <p><b>Harold Foster</b> is made chair of the Executive Committee. Full roster of the Executive Committee: <b>Hilliard Caldwell, William Cureton, David Dansby, Marion Davis, Lonnie Horton, Charles Jones, Mary Mason, Richard Strowd, Lonita Terrell, Robert Winston</b><sup>15</sup></p>
<b>MAR 1960</b>	William D. Blake, Chapel Hill Police Chief, arranges conferences between "adult leaders" of the black and white communities in an attempt to dissuade protests.
<b>MAR 21 1960</b>	Committee for Racial Equality resumes picketing.
<b>MAR 24 1960</b>	Group of ministers place a full-page ad in the <i>Chapel Hill News</i> : "Statement of Convictions" in support of protests against segregated businesses. <sup>16</sup>
<b>MAR 31 1960</b>	850 Townspeople place a full-page ad in the <i>Chapel Hill News</i> in support of merchants who integrate.
<b>SPRING 1960</b>	Chapel Hill Merchants Association proposes of trial period for service to black community.
<b>APR 10 1960</b>	<p>Religious groups at the university, whose memberships are mostly white, sponsor an attempt to desegregate movie theaters (<b>The Carolina Theater</b> and <b>The Varsity Theater</b>).</p> <p>Committee for Racial Equity express support for this action in "Report to the Citizens of Chapel Hill."<sup>17</sup></p>

<sup>13</sup> *Daily Tarheel*, March 8, 1960

<sup>14</sup> Mention of an organizing meeting in *Chapel Hill News* March 3, 1960

<sup>15</sup> "Report to the Citizens of Chapel Hill," *Chapel Hill News* May, 1960

<sup>16</sup> *Chapel Hill News* March 24, 1960

<sup>17</sup> "Report to the Citizens of Chapel Hill," *Chapel Hill News* May, 1960

<p><b>APR 18 1960</b></p>	<p>Picketing is temporarily suspended in favor of negotiation and education. Letters from the Committee for Racial Equity proposing to “cease our picketing activities for a week in order to let the feelings of everyone become more open to confidence in each other” are sent to owners of Colonial Drug, Village Pharmacy, and Long Meadow Dairy. Marion Davis quoted in <i>Chapel Hill News</i> as spokesperson for Committee of Racial Equity.</p> <p>From <i>Chapel Hill News</i>, “Announcement of the moratorium on picketing came nine weeks to the day after it began.”<sup>18</sup> This would place the start of picketing in Chapel Hill on February 15, when Lincoln Students first approached <b>Long Meadow Dairy</b>.</p>
<p><b>MAY 8-9 1960</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr</b> visits Chapel Hill.<sup>19</sup> He speaks at <b>Roberson Street Community Center</b>, University Baptist Church, and UNC. Also notable: connection between the "Freedom Rides" in Summer and Fall of 1961 and the Journey of Reconciliation in 1947 that ended in Chapel Hill.</p>
<p><b>JULY 25-26 1960</b></p>	<p>Frustrated by the inaction and ineffectiveness of the protests in changing segregated policies, Lincoln High School students involved in the initial February protests, spontaneously decide to sit-in at Colonial Drug. From Harold Foster oral history, “...we were <i>disobedient</i> to that extent, disobedient to those who told us to be obedient, but obedient to our own consciences as it were.”<sup>20</sup> Action is disavowed by the Committee for Racial Equality in a statement.<sup>21</sup></p>
<p><b>JULY 26 1960</b></p>	<p>On July 26, arrest warrants issued for 11 teenagers for sit-ins at Colonial Drug on the evenings of July 25 and July 26. Two boys who were under-age were released to their parents and charges dropped: <b>Thomas Mason</b>, 15 and <b>James Brittian</b>, 15. However the Chapel Hill Nine were charged with trespass: <b>Clarence Merritt, Jr.</b>, 17; <b>Douglas Perry</b>, 17; <b>James Merritt</b>, 16; <b>Harold Foster</b>, 18; <b>Dave Mason, Jr.</b>, 17; <b>William Cureton</b>, 18; <b>Albert Williams</b>, 16; <b>Earl Geer</b>, 16; <b>John Farrington</b>, 17<sup>22</sup></p>
<p><b>AUG 2 1960</b></p>	<p>Trial for <b>Chapel Hill Nine</b> set to take place in <b>Chapel Hill Recorder’s Court</b>. <b>Floyd McKissick</b> is defense attorney. <sup>23</sup> Continuance granted at the trial until August 30.<sup>24</sup></p>
<p><b>AUG 30 1960</b></p>	<p>Chapel Hill Nine teenagers found guilty of trespassing. Each fined \$10 and costs and given a suspended 30-day jail sentence. Clarence Merritt, Jr paid the fine. The other eight appealed their cases to the Orange county Superior Court. <sup>25</sup> These “troublemakers” mostly resumed their usual lives and protests and picketing all but ceased for a time.<sup>26</sup></p>

<sup>18</sup> *Chapel Hill News* April 18, 1960  
<sup>19</sup> *News and Observer*, April 3, 2018  
<sup>20</sup> Harold Foster interview, 1974  
<sup>21</sup> *Chapel Hill News*, August 1 1960  
<sup>22</sup> *Chapel Hill News* July 28, 1960  
<sup>23</sup> *CHN*, August 1, 1960  
<sup>24</sup> *CHN*, August 4, 1960  
<sup>25</sup> *CHN*, September 1, 1960  
<sup>26</sup> John K. Chapman thesis, page 156.

<b>JAN-FEB 1961</b>	Picketing called for when manager of the <b>Carolina Theater</b> refuses to allow a desegregated showing of <i>Porgy and Bess</i> , a film with a predominately black cast. Movement to integrate Chapel Hill theaters becomes known as Citizens for Open Movies. <sup>27</sup>
<b>SPRING-SUMMER 1961</b>	Sit-downs and picketing re-emerges as protest against segregated business: <b>Long Meadow Dairy Bar, the Bus Station Grill, Colonial Drug, Carolina and Varsity Theaters.</b> <sup>28</sup> School board decides to allow token integration in September 1961. Vickers v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools with <b>Thurgood Marshall</b> as one of the legal representatives for <b>Stanley Vickers.</b> <sup>29</sup>
<b>AUG 17 1961</b>	First blacks attend an integrated showing at the Carolina Theater of "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" (only black university students allowed): Ann Douglas and Edith Mayfield. <sup>30</sup>
<b>FALL 1961</b>	First schools integrate following Brown V. Board of Education. <b>Stanley Vickers, Ted Stone</b> integrate junior high school, <b>Sheila Bynum</b> becomes first black student at Chapel Hill High <sup>31</sup>
<b>OCT 24 1961</b>	Citizens Committee for Open Movies resolves to picket theaters if they do not open to all. "We will wait no longer than the return from the Christmas holidays for the opening of movies to all..." <sup>32</sup>
<b>NOV 12 1961</b>	After failure of the call for integration, picketing of theaters resumes In response The Varsity begins to allow "university blacks" to attend screenings <sup>33</sup>
<b>FEB 1962</b>	Theaters open to all blacks <sup>34</sup>
<b>SUMMER 1962</b>	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Ministerial Association joins with other local organizations to support civil rights causes. <sup>35</sup>
<b>JAN 1963</b>	<b>Pat Cusick</b> , white student at UNC, organizes local chapter of the Student Peace Union (SPU). <b>Harold Foster</b> becomes early member. <sup>36</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization and the Indigenous Movement in Chapel Hill NC, 1960-1965," p. 33

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 33

<sup>29</sup> "Vickers Decision Remembered," [Carrboro Citizen](#), September 1, 2011

<sup>30</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 34

<sup>31</sup> "Vickers Decision Remembered," [Carrboro Citizen](#), September 1, 2011

<sup>32</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 34

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 34

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 34

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 34

<sup>36</sup> John Ehle, *The Free Men*, pp. 8-9

<b>APR 1963</b>	SPU joins boycott of local businesses with segregationist policies <sup>37</sup>
<b>APR 5 1963</b>	Picket of <b>College Cafe</b> on Franklin Street by UNC NAACP & SPU <sup>38</sup>
<b>APR 11 1963</b>	University demonstrator, <b>Paul Hutzler</b> , attacked by white resident of Carrboro, Roy Lee Merritt <sup>39</sup>
<b>MAY 3 1963</b>	Community activist meeting at <b>St. Joseph's CME</b> begins Chapel Hill Committee for Open Business (COB). Includes <b>Pat Cusick, Harold Foster, John Dunne, Quinton Baker</b> and adviser <b>Reverend Charlie Jones</b> . <sup>40</sup>
<b>MAY 23 1963</b>	Chapel-Hill Carrboro Merchants urges its members and other public businesses to end without further delay all discriminatory practices. <sup>41</sup>
<b>MAY 24 1963</b>	Mayor Sandy McClamroch forms committee to find a way to eliminate discriminatory practices in Chapel Hill and forms the Integration Committee <sup>42</sup>
<b>MAY 25 1963</b>	First march held by COB from <b>St. Joseph's</b> to the <b>College Cafe</b> . From John Ehle's <i>The Free Men</i> : "350 citizens of the town, about half of them white and half of them colored, began what was perhaps the first fully integrated public march in support of integration that the South had seen" <sup>43</sup>
<b>JUNE 25 1963</b>	First vote from the Board of Alderman on the public accommodations ordinance to end all segregation in area businesses. It did not pass; the vote was 4-2. Hugh Robinson, the first black alderman in Chapel Hill (voted into office in 1953) was one of the 2 who voted for it. <sup>4445</sup>
<b>JULY 1963</b>	COB announces series of mass civil disobedience workshops <sup>46</sup>
<b>JULY 4 1963</b>	Biggest march to date, with 400-500 people. <sup>47</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 35

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 35

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., p. 35

<sup>40</sup> John Ehle, *The Free Men*, p. 35

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 35

<sup>42</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 35

<sup>43</sup> John Ehle, *The Free Men*, p. 47

<sup>44</sup> Sally Green, Introduction, panel "I Raised My Hand to Volunteer"

<sup>45</sup> Roland Giduz, one of the members of the Board of Alderman who voted against the ordinance in June 1963 and in January 1964 apologized for his vote in 2008:

<https://rolandgiduz.wordpress.com/2008/01/17/we-should-have-led-the-way/>

<sup>46</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 36

<sup>47</sup> John Ehle, *The Free Men*, p. 77

<b>JULY 19 1963</b>	34 protesters, black and white, arrested at <b>Merchants Association's headquarters</b> (on Franklin St) in first mass civil disobedience demonstration <sup>48</sup>
<b>AUG 14 1963</b>	<b>First Baptist Church</b> (location): COB executive committee votes to remove <b>Harold Foster</b> from the chairmanship of the committee. The full body of the COB refuses to allow Foster to resign. Foster seen as a representative of the black community. Group splinters into CURED (Citizens United for Racial Equality and Dignity) and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) <sup>49</sup>
<b>FALL 1963</b>	All school transfers are allowed and school district lines are redrawn to assign equal percentages of black and white students to schools. <b>Karen Parker</b> becomes the first black woman undergraduate at UNC when she transfer from Greensboro.
<b>DEC 1963</b>	Chapel Hill Freedom Committee forms. <b>John Dunne</b> chair, <b>Quinton Baker</b> vice chair. Sit-ins at local restaurants become a regular occurrence. <sup>50</sup>
<b>Dec 20-29 1963</b>	<b>Quinton Baker</b> , along with other protesters, doused with Clorox and ammonia at a protests at the <b>Rock Pile</b> . He was taken to the hospital with first-degree burns and had his stomach pumped. More violence at <b>Watts Motel</b> demonstrations. <sup>51</sup> Approximately 200 arrests after protests, including <b>Karen Parker</b> who was part of a group protesting at <b>Leo's Restaurant</b> . Of note: demonstrators never agreed to press charges against any perpetrators of the violence. From John Ehle, "it was a unique aspect of the Chapel Hill movement that this was against policy." <sup>52</sup>
<b>JAN 1964</b>	More mass arrests following protests and sit-in at <b>Watts Grill</b> <sup>53</sup>
<b>JAN 12 1964</b>	" <b>Freedom Walk</b> " from Durham to Chapel Hill. <b>James Farmer</b> of CORE speaks, urging the Chapel Hill Board of Alderman to pass the public accommodations ordinance <sup>54</sup>
<b>JAN 13 1964</b>	Chapel Hill Board of Alderman reject local public accommodations law. 38 protesters begin sit-in in the courtroom in <b>Town Hall</b> (now Historic Town Hall), with others blocking the front door. Some protesters remain for several days. <b>James Farmer</b> issues ultimatum: "if Chapel Hill is not desegregated by February 1, all the resources of the national office of CORE will be focused on the city." <sup>55</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 37

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., p.38

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., p. 39

<sup>51</sup> "Standing Up by Sitting Down," *Carolina Alumni Review*, March/April 2006, pp. 104-105

<sup>52</sup> John Ehle, *The Free Men*, p. 151

<sup>53</sup> Sally Green, Introduction, panel "I Raised My Hand to Volunteer"

<sup>54</sup> Daniel Pollitt, "Legal Problems in Southern Desegregation" p.697

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., p. 697



<p><b>FEB 1 1964</b></p>	<p>350 meet at <b>St. Joseph CME</b> and marched to <b>Town Hall</b> for rally. "On February 1, 1964, four years to the day after the sit-down demonstration by the "<b>Greensboro Four</b>," and the day proclaimed as "D-Day" by national CORE Director <b>James Farmer</b>, a massive demonstration took place as he promised. Early in the afternoon more than 350 people met at the St. Joseph AME Church<sup>56</sup> to receive instructions and form ranks for the march. Scores of spectators had lined the streets by the time the marchers turned left onto <b>West Franklin Street from Roberson Street</b>. The demonstrators marched to Town Hall where they had a rally. Seventy-five protesters were arrested as a result of the demonstration: twenty-one were arrested at three points along Franklin Street where they sat down in the middle of the street and blocked traffic for about thirty minutes. Several arrests were made in connection with fights that broke out between marchers and members of the hostile crowd of bystanders. That night, forty-four demonstrators were arrested when they staged a sit-in at <b>Brady's Restaurant</b> on the Durham Road, and nine more were arrested at <b>Carlton's Rock Pile Eatery</b>. "<sup>57</sup></p>
<p><b>FEB 8 1964</b></p>	<p>Largest demonstration on one day: "The demonstration came in four waves of 100 or more persons each, which were synchronized to tie up traffic and create mass confusion following the University of North Carolina-Wake Forest basketball game. ...Demonstrators tied up traffic for over an hour at the <b>Franklin Street-Columbia Street intersection</b>, the main intersection in Chapel Hill, and they disrupted the flow of traffic on the Wake Forest highway, the Durham Road and the Pittsboro Road. Chapel Hill was thrown into a state of visible chaos."<sup>58</sup></p>
<p><b>FEB 10 1964</b></p>	<p>Picketing outside <b>Town Hall</b>, 42 demonstrators arrested<sup>59</sup></p>
<p><b>MAR 1964</b></p>	<p><b>Pat Cusick, LaVert Taylor, John Dunne, and James Foushee</b> hold 8-day "<b>Holy Week Fast</b>" on the <b>post office steps</b> to protest the nearly 30 segregated business in Chapel Hill. Covered in The New York Times daily. The Ku Klux Klan holds a rally of about 700 people at the town's edge on the seventh day. <sup>60</sup></p>
<p><b>SPRING 1964</b></p>	<p>Trials and sentences of demonstrators. <sup>61</sup></p>
<p><b>JUNE 1964</b></p>	<p>Civil Rights Act passed by Congress. Black members of community test civil rights law by visiting formerly segregated eateries. Denial of service and attacks at two eateries: <b>Watts Grill</b> and <b>Clarence's Bar &amp; Grill</b><sup>62</sup></p>

<sup>56</sup> Should be St. Joseph CME Church. Error in original text.  
<sup>57</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", p. 40  
<sup>58</sup> Ibid., pp. 40-41  
<sup>59</sup> Ibid., p. 41  
<sup>60</sup> Daniel Pollitt, "Legal Problems in Southern Desegregation" p.700  
<sup>61</sup> Ibid  
<sup>62</sup> Barksdale, "Civil Rights Organization...", pp. 41-42

<b>JULY 10 1964</b>	<b>Peter Leak</b> charges Austin Watts with assault and threatens a lawsuit. Watts Grill desegregates. <sup>63</sup>
<b>JAN 1965</b>	NC Governor <b>Terry Sanford</b> commutes sentences of 13 demonstrators in his final week in office <sup>64</sup>
<b>1965- 1966</b>	Chapel Hill Mayor Sandy McClamroch disbands all the local committees that had fought segregation
<b>1966</b>	<b>Lincoln High School</b> closes. All students attend newly constructed, integrated Chapel Hill High School. Black students forced to give up their school name, their mascot, their principal, their coach, and their school trophies.
<b>SEPT 1 1968</b>	<b>Albert Williams</b> , one of the original Lincoln High School demonstrators, is hired as the first African American firefighter for the Town of Chapel Hill. <sup>65</sup>
<b>1968- 1969</b>	<p>Riot at <b>Chapel Hill High School</b></p> <p><u>From SOHP Interview with <b>Walter Durham</b></u>: "Durham, along with several of his classmates, used chains to lock down the school. According to Durham, the teachers quickly got the students "back in line" and there was no major violence or damage done to the school....Durham says that what they sought with this demonstration was to have more of a voice at Chapel Hill High School. He again emphasizes the family atmosphere that had characterized Lincoln High School and indicates that they hoped to regenerate a similar feeling at Chapel Hill High School by drawing attention to the fact that they wanted to be included. Ultimately, Durham recalls that little change actually occurred as a result."</p> <p>Ongoing protests at Chapel Hill High School throughout the school year. Student body voted to change the name of their mascot to the <b>Tigers</b>, the former Lincoln High School mascot.</p>
<b>MAY 6 1969</b>	Election of <b>Howard Lee</b> as mayor of Chapel Hill. "In doing so, he became the first African American elected mayor in a predominantly white southern town since Reconstruction." Lee went on to win his next two mayoral elections by large margins. <sup>66</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., p. 42

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. 42

<sup>65</sup> Conversation with Albert Williams and <http://chapelhillmuseum.org/aperry/chfd/>

<sup>66</sup> "Howard Lee: A Historical Mayoral Election" [Documenting American South](#)

## AFTERWORD

**“I think integration should be...We have a “rebuttal” planned to take place. You may have front page news for Monday. Should trespassing warrants be served, I think the Negro is prepared to pay the price.”**

- Harold Foster, 18-year-old Lincoln High School student  
*The Chapel Hill Weekly, February 15, 1960*

The timeline presented is the result of collaboration with the people of Chapel Hill who lived through and observed this particular history unfold. We understand that it does not cover the total civil rights history in Chapel Hill, yet this effort represents our humble attempt to acknowledge and record the events and people who have contributed so much to making Chapel Hill the community that it is today.

We would like to note that the great part Chapel Hill played in the Civil Rights Movement began with Lincoln High School students who were brave enough to challenge established practices and stand for justice. Sparked by the Greensboro 4 sit-in, the power and persistence of these high school students from Chapel Hill opened the floodgates for necessary change to take place in a town cloaked by liberalism and contributed to a longstanding tradition of youth-led activism. We are inspired by their leadership and it is our hope that the contributions of African Americans from Chapel Hill will stand as an example that justice can be accomplished with perseverance and fortitude.

DANITA MASON-HOGANS  
MEGAN STANLEY

*Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force  
Spring 2018*

# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## APPENDIX A: TASK FORCE BACKGROUND

### FORMATION

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**Item Overview**  
Business Meeting – 09/27/2017  
Agenda # 7

**Subject:** Formation of the Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

**From:**  
Mayor Pam Hemminger

Last May, following the dedication of the Freedom Fighter’s Gateway at the entrance to the Northside neighborhood, I was approached by a group representing nine young black men who were arrested during the February 28, 1960 sit-in at the Colonial Drugstore on West Franklin Street.

The group asked that the town consider erecting a marker to memorialize that event.

Listening to their stories and those of others who have reached out to my office to request proclamations celebrating organizations and events that played a significant role in the town’s struggle for Civil Rights, I am establishing a “Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force”.

The purpose of the Task Force is to create a timeline that identifies people, places and events which should be memorialized in order to remind everyone of the struggle for civil rights that African Americans endured in Chapel Hill in the 1960’s and to tell the story of the role that Chapel Hill played in our nation’s Civil Rights movement.

The Task Force will commence their work in October 2017 and report back to the Town Council in early 2018.

They are being asked to recommend a list of people, places and events that have been significant in the town’s Civil Rights struggle so that they may be commemorated in historical context by the Town, including the Sit-In at the Colonial Drugstore and the Lincoln High Students (“Chapel Hill Nine”) whose actions ignited the integration movement in Chapel Hill.

The makeup of the group is as follows:

**Council Members** – Donna Bell & Sally Greene

**Staff Liaison** – To be named

**Community Members-**

Danita Mason-Hogans – Daughter of Chapel Hill Nine member, Dave Mason and  
Center For Documentary Studies, Duke University

Jim Merritt – One of the Chapel Hill Nine and former Town Council Member

Dr. William Sturkey – Assistant Professor, UNC Department of History

Albert Williams – One of the Chapel Hill Nine and former Chapel Hill firefighter

Rev Dr. Mark Royster – Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church

Per the Mayor’s direction, following this report, the work of the task force will be considered complete and the task force will be discharged.

## **TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

The task force consists of the following members, representing the listed organizations:

- Ken Broun\*+ (Chair)--former Mayor of Chapel Hill, retired UNC professor, downtown resident
- Nancy Oates--Chapel Hill Town Council Member
- Donna Bell--Chapel Hill Town Council Member
- Sally Greene-- former Town Council Member
- James Britt—Brother of Chapel Hill Nine member, William Cureton
- Reginald Hildebrand\*+ (Chapel Hill Nine subcommittee Chair)— UNC, Retired History Professor
- Dianne Jackson\*+-- NAACP Board Member, Retired CHCCS Librarian
- David Mason\*-- Chapel Hill Nine member, OCTS Lincoln Northside Alumni President
- Danita Mason-Hogans\*+ (Working Group Chair)— Daughter of Chapel Hill Nine member, Dave Mason and Center For Documentary Studies, Duke University
- OJ McGee-- UNC Black Caucus
- Mae McLendon+-- St. Paul’s AME
- Jim Merritt\*-- Chapel Hill Nine member, former Town Council member
- Cecelia Moore+-- UNC Historian
- Megan Stanley\*+-- Jackson Center, Coordinator for Youth Leadership and Education
- Albert Williams\*-- Chapel Hill Nine member, former Town of Chapel Hill firefighter

\*Denotes member of Working Group, tasked with research and drafting the timeline

+Denotes member of Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee, tasked with making recommendations for commemorations

## **MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Topics Discussed, major decisions made</b>
November 30, 2017	Full Task Force	Discussion of the charge of the task force, how it came to be, and its purpose  Share individual & community interests  Working group forms to draft the timeline
December 12, 2017	Working Group	Danita Mason-Hogans accepts role as chair   Using a draft timeline based on Dr. Barksdale’s work, developed a format for soliciting responses and feedback from other members of the task force.   Harold Foster passed away on December 5, 2017. Reverend Williams and Dave Mason both spoke at his memorial service.

January 24, 2018	Working Group	Dave Mason shares online version of the timeline that he developed   Ken Broun suggests writing an introductory paragraph   Group agrees that the timeline will begin with first sit-ins in Chapel Hill, February 1960
February 22, 2018	Full Task Force	Dave Mason presented online database of timeline events   Decision made to seek public input on the timeline and the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill   Reginald Hildebrand presented his introduction to the timeline "Opening the Floodgates"   Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee formed to consider and recommend commemorations
March 15, 2018	Launch of public feedback and input channels	Molly Luby developed website and flyer to share work and solicit feedback from community   Task force approves its use and it is shared throughout public and private channels via task force members and Town public channels
March 29, 2018	Chapel Hill Nine	Reginald Hildebrand accepts role as chair   Discussion focuses on historical markers for Chapel Hill Nine and their role in sit-in on February 28, 1960
April 4, 2018	Working Group	Decision to keep public channels open through the end of April   Decision to attend the Northside Festival (April 29) with Library's Circulator and large-scale version of the timeline for sharing the work and asking for public feedback   Decision for the timeline to include all significant dates from 1960-1969 and for it to have a conclusion written by Megan Stanley and Danita Mason-Hogans.
April 19, 2018	Full Task Force	Working group reports on the timeline, including information about conflicting accounts of February 28 sit-in from Megan Stanley   Adoption of the recommendation from Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee to recommend historical marker for the Chapel Hill Nine   Agreement to the Northside Festival presence and the continuation of public input through April 30

April 25, 2018	Chapel Hill Nine	Revisiting historical accounts of February 28, arrests of Chapel Hill Nine members in July 1960   Develop action plan to divide research needs and report back to the group in a week   Reiteration of urgency of commemoration
April 29, 2018	Community engagement	Participated in the Northside Festival with a large scale timeline poster displayed on the Library's Circulator
May 2, 2018	Chapel Hill Nine	Received reports from members on historical accounts
May 3, 2018	Working Group	Decision to add to the timeline all of the work from Chapel Hill Nine research reports   Conversation and consensus about how to note differing accounts
May 9, 2018	Chapel Hill Nine	Brainstorming about commemorations. Decision to recommend a new task force to plan historical marker with aim of Feb 28, 2019 as installation date; Decision to recommend formation of community committee to plan commemorative event to occur in conjunction with historical marker; Decision to recommend panel/discussion series to lead up to this event all through Fall 2018; Decision to recommend Harold Foster to Town Naming Committee for Peace and Justice Plaza
May 10, 2018	Full Task Force	Shared introduction and current version of the timeline and request for last edits, formatting suggestions, etc.   With some editing suggestions, content of the timeline approved   Decision to recommend that large visual posters of the timeline, like the one created for Northside Festival, be posted throughout the Town   All Chapel Hill Nine recommendations approved   Council Presentation will be given by Molly Luby, Ken Broun, Danita Mason-Hogans and Reginald Hildebrand   Share with the full task force in advance of Council Session on June 13.
June 7, 2018	Full Task Force	Share final report to Council and wrap up

# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## **APPENDIX B: CHAPEL HILL NINE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Because the landscape of Chapel Hill continues to change rapidly, and because it is important for our community to mark and memorialize the places where significant events in our history took place, we recommend that the Town of Chapel Hill authorize the Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee of the Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force to continue its work. The purpose of this work will be to develop a recommendation for Council consideration in the erection of a municipal historical marker at the site of the old Colonial Drug Co., where non-violent direct action Civil Rights protests began on February 28, 1960. By making this commitment, and taking this action, the Town of Chapel Hill will acknowledge and affirm that it values the history that was made there nearly 60 years ago.

CHAPEL HILL NINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Reginald Hildebrand (chair)  
Danita Mason-Hogans  
Dianne Jackson  
Mae McLendon  
Cecelia Moore  
Megan Stanley  
Ken Broun



# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## APPENDIX C: TASK FORCE REFERENCES

Full list of references consulted and cited in developing context and content for timeline and commemoration recommendations:

### Books

- *The Free Men* by John Ehle (1965)  
Description: describes the experiences of a handful of dedicated young students, both black and white, during the 1963-64 civil rights protests in Chapel Hill, NC.
- *Courage in the Moment: The Civil rights Struggle, 1961-1964*, photographs by Jim Wallace and text by Paul Dickson (2012)  
Description: In 1961, the editor of *The Daily Tarheel* sent his staff into the streets of Chapel Hill to cover local civil rights activities.
- *Whites Only* by Robert Seymour (1991)  
Description: Examination of the movement in Chapel Hill from the perspective of faith organizations.

### Articles, theses/dissertations, and various online/print resources:

- John K. Chapman master's thesis: "Second Generation: Black Youth and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill, N.C., 1937-1963".
- Marcellus Barksdale article "Civil Rights Organization and the Indigenous Movement in Chapel Hill NC, 1960-1965." *Phylon* (1986).
- Marcellus Barksdale dissertation: "The Indigenous Civil Rights Movement and Cultural Change in North Carolina: Weldon, Chapel Hill, and Monroe: 1946-1965," Duke University, 1977.
- Sally Greene Introduction to panel for "I Raised My Hand to Volunteer." Wilson Library, January 30, 2007".
- UNC Online Exhibit: "I Raised My Hand to Volunteer":  
<https://exhibits.lib.unc.edu/exhibits/show/protest/sitin-essay>.
- Daniel H. Pollitt, Legal Problems in Southern Desegregation: The Chapel Hill Story, 43 N.C. L. Rev.689 (1965).
- Daniel H. Pollitt, Dime Store Demonstrations: Events and Legal Problems of First Sixty Days, 1960 Duke L.J. 315 (1960).
- Memo from Courtland Cox, SNCC Legacy Project: "Documenting the Ongoing Struggles" (helpful in developing our working model and guiding values).
- Chapel Hill Museum Online Exhibit: "Chapel Hill Fire Department: an interactive history 1896-2007": <http://chapelhillmuseum.org/aperry/chfd/>.
- Dickson, S. (Sept 1, 2011). Vickers decision remembered. *Carrboro Citizen*. Retrieved from <http://www.ibiblio.org/carrborocitizen/main/2011/09/01/vickers-decision-remembered/>.
- Thompson, C. (March/April 2006). Standing up by sitting down. *Caroline Alumni Review*. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.carolinaalumnireview.com/carolinaalumnireview/20060304/MobilePagedReplica.action?pm=2&folio=32#pg34>.
- Ogle, Mike. (April 2, 2018). Martin Luther King Jr. and Chapel Hill's Jim Crow past *News and Observer*. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/orange-county/article207782984.html>.
- "Chronology of Resistance to Segregation in Chapel Hill" (unknown origin—found in a member's copy of *The Free Men*).

- “Landmarks in the Local Civil Rights Struggle as depicted in *The Free Men* by John Ehle” (unknown origin—found by a member who thinks it might have been a document prepared for a Civil Rights walking tour).
- [Daily TarHeel archives](#) (available online via Digital NC).
- Sally Greene blog post: “Peace and protest, justice and injustice: marking Chapel Hill’s sacred space” Retrieved from: <https://greenespace.blogspot.com/2009/09/peace-and-protest-justice-and-injustice.html>.
- Roland Giduz blog post: “We Should Have Led the Way.” Retrieved from: <https://rolandgiduz.wordpress.com/2008/01/17/we-should-have-led-the-way/>.

### **Oral Histories from the Southern Oral History Program**

- Project Mighty Tigers--Oral Histories of Chapel Hill's Lincoln High School (Project K.2.20)
- Oral Histories on Desegregation and Inner Life of Chapel Hill Schools (Project K.2.8)
- [Various individual biographies](#)
- Un-digitized oral histories at Duke University, including Harold Foster (1974), William Cureton (1974) and other key participants in the Chapel Hill Civil Rights Movement
- Oral Histories & photographs from Marion Cheek Jackson Center Oral History Trust: <https://archives.jacksoncenter.info/>

### **Archival Papers from Southern Historical Collection**

- John Ehle papers: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/04555/>.
  - Interviews with John Dunne, Pat Cusick, and Harold Foster; along with the photographs used in *The Free Men* (not digitized). And, Ehle's journal from his time as special assistant to Gov. Terry Sanford (1962-1964).
- John Kenyon Chapman papers: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05441/>.
  - Transcripts of interviews with Harold Foster, Pat Cusick, William Cureton, Hilliard Caldwell.
- Billy E. Barnes Photographic Collection: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/P0034/>.
- Roland Giduz Photographic Collection: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/P0033/>.
- Charles Miles Jones Papers: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05168/>.
- Daniel H. Pollitt Papers: <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05498/>.

### **Chapel Hill Historical Society and/or Chapel Hill Public Library**

- Full run of *Chapel Hill News* (bound and on microfilm)

### **Commemorations Resources:**

- Waldrop, M. (Oct 23 2017). Historical markers help civil rights activist make better memories. *Columbia Business Report*. Retrieved March 29, 2018: <https://columbiabusinessreport.com/news/uncategorized/73178/>.
- (May 27, 2017). Historical marker installation. *Chapelboro.com*. <http://chapelboro.com/calnedars/historic-marker-installation>.
- Journey of Reconciliation historical marker. *StoppingPoints.com*: <https://www.stoppingpoints.com/north-carolina/sights.cgi?marker=Journey+Of+Reconciliation&cnty=orange>.
- Town of Chapel Hill. (February 16, 2009). Historical civil rights marker to be unveiled Feb. 28. *NewsList*. <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/Home/Components/News/News/432/2539?npage=211&arch=1>.
- Information from North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program.

# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## **APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY INPUT**

### **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Early in our work, members decided that we wanted to include the community in the process of developing the timeline. This decision met our guiding value of being inclusive and collaborative. We wanted to develop a method for the community to give feedback, make suggestions for people, places, and events to include in the timeline, and a method to share their memories of the Civil Rights Movement. We wanted the method to be simple to use, to be broad in its reach, and to allow people of varying skills to be able to access our feedback channels. We, therefore, developed multiple methods for sharing feedback and input:

- Online: we created a website where we embedded multiple methods for sharing feedback. The site can be reached here: [chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights). On the site, visitors can learn about the ongoing work of the task force and contribute to the work via:
  - Online survey form
  - Public comment forum
  - Public form to recommend relevant resources
  - Public form to share images or other primary source documents
- By phone: we implemented a voicemail line where callers could leave messages of any length. We envisioned this channel as a place where people could share stories or leave their contact information. Voicemail Line: (919) 642-3629
- In person: we welcomed one-on-one conversations and invited people to contact us (by phone or email) if they wanted us to schedule a conversation.

To promote the project, we developed a community input flyer<sup>67</sup>. We sent this flyer to local organizations such as the NAACP, the Jackson Center, and the Chapel Hill Historical Society. We also shared this information with local faith organizations for their weekly bulletins and published it via Town channels: Town eNews, Library newsletter, and Town and Library social media channels (Facebook, Twitter). Additionally, task force members shared this flyer with their extensive personal and professional networks.

The result was many conversations, leads, reminiscences, and curiosity about this work.

- Our online website received over 200 visitors from March 15-April 30.
- We spoke with dozens of community members about the work of the task force and the timeline at the Northside Festival on April 29.

We did not have any analytics in place to track visits on our website or our other media sites to determine the reach of our messages until late in the process. We also did not track all comments and feedback—those responses that expressed curiosity or interest, for example. In the future, we would recommend collecting names and contact information of interested community members in order to share the work as we reiterate.

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<sup>67</sup> See Appendix E

**PUBLIC RESPONSES TO OUR ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

Question	Response 1	Response 2
Who are the people we should remember from Chapel Hill's Civil Rights Movement?	Howard lee	Small business African Americans
Why should we remember them?	he was the first black mayor or a majority white town	They were the backbone in their communities
What are the important landmark places from Chapel Hill's Civil Rights Movement?	Suttons Drug store	Midway area around Rosemary St
Why should we remember them?	for the sit ins	It was the center
Share the events from Chapel Hill's Civil Rights Movement that you believe should be included in the timeline.	No response	When March on Washington came through
What was the date of this event? (it's ok if you don't remember)	No response	No response
Do you have pictures of Chapel Hill's Civil Rights Movement? Would you allow us to make copies?	No response	No response
Your name & Contact information	No response	No response
What else should we know? Who else should we talk with?	the children of dan pollitt (sons name is Daniel Pollitt) Dan Pollitt recruited lawyer for the civil rights movement <a href="https://museum.unc.edu/exhibits/show/faculty/daniel-h--pollitt--1921---">https://museum.unc.edu/exhibits/show/faculty/daniel-h--pollitt--1921---</a>	No response
What years should the Town's timeline cover?	1975	1950-1970's

## RESPONSES RECEIVED IN PERSON OR VIA EMAIL

- **Margaret Brown**, former Orange County Commissioner. She was married to Robert Brown, mentioned extensively in *The Free Men* and founder of the civil rights newspaper in Chapel Hill, *The Anvil*.  
Finding aid to his papers in Wilson Library<sup>68</sup>  
She mentioned **Mike Putzel** of *The Daily Tarheel* and **Joel Bulkley** who worked with her husband on *The Anvil* as good sources for stories and information.
- **Email & phone call from Dorothy Bernholz**. "My husband Steve and I are long time residents of Chapel Hill and followed a legal case resulting from a sit-in by a Duke University professor at the Watts Motel. In January, 1964, **Peter Klopfer** sat in at the Watts Motel and was charged with criminal trespass. A complicated but important legal issue was pursued by Klopfer and his attorney, **William William VanAlystne**, to the US Supreme Court. See: State of North Carolina v. Klopfer, 386 U.S. 213(1967) (Link to the case on Wikipedia<sup>69</sup>) We will be happy to provide our recollections and analysis (we are both attorneys) if you have an interest in pursuing this."
- **Phone call from Barbara Lorrie**, former English teacher at Chapel Hill High school, present when high school integrated in 1966. She shared information about how difficult this transition was for students and faculty.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE SITE

- From Mike Dolan Fliss: Some UNC-related events may be worth including, given the intersection of movement work in both town and campus. Possible examples:  
<https://exhibits.lib.unc.edu/exhibits/show/silent-sam/timeline>
- Anonymous:  
<http://www.carolinaalumnireview.com/carolinaalumnireview/20060304?pg=34#pg34>

## PUBLIC FEEDBACK METHODS THAT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE

- Voicemail line
- References and resources input form
- Photos or other documents upload form

## FEEDBACK/COMMENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES

Article in Chapelboro: <https://chapelboro.com/news/news-around-town/chapel-hill-collecting-civil-rights-stories>

Comment on the story from John O'Melia: The first year schools in Chapel Hill were to integrate, my parents pulled their kids out of St.Thomas Moore catholic School because they were admitting white non-catholic students who were coming to avoid integrated schools. My mother asked that I go to Kindergarten at the previously all black school, so I was one of 4 white students in the school and the only white student in my class. At that age it seemed perfectly normal and I had a terrific year. Nearly 50 years later my mother and I still discuss that year. If that seems like it will fit with your project, we'd be delighted to discuss it.

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<sup>68</sup> <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/05312/>

<sup>69</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klopfer\\_v.\\_North\\_Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klopfer_v._North_Carolina)

## **PERSONAL REMINISCENCE, FROM RICHARD CRAMER (VIA EMAIL)**

I arrived in Chapel Hill in Fall 1961 as a new UNC Sociology faculty member. While a graduate student in Boston, I had joined CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and participated in picketing Woolworth's and in efforts to break down housing and hiring discrimination.

Naturally, I joined the local civil rights movement in Chapel Hill as a protest marcher and picketer of racially discriminating restaurants and movie theaters. Quentin Baker, Pat Cusick, and John Dunne were our leaders; I was just one of the rank and file and never risked getting arrested. Our weekly marches usually began at St. Joseph's CME Church on Rosemary Street and wended our way through downtown. Often, more than 100 people participated. The CME Church was used because the larger black church, the First Baptist was not available. Its pastor, the Reverend J.R. Manley, the first black elected to the local school board in 1959, chose not to be a prominent member of the protest movement at that time.

For my first three years in Chapel Hill, I never attended a current movie because the two theaters were closed to blacks. We kept hoping that the Chapel Hill Town government would take the lead and pass legislation against discrimination in public accommodations. But this never happened. Mayor Sandy McClamrock was not in favor, but our biggest frustration was with Town Council member Roland Giduz, who would speak sympathetically about the cause of racial justice but would never provide the swing vote needed to enact the necessary laws.

Harry's Delicatessen and restaurants owned by the Danzigers (The Rathskeller, Zoom Zoom, and Ranch House) served blacks in the early '60s, but most businesses continued to discriminate until the Federal Civil Rights laws of the mid '60s. Indeed, public school desegregation really became complete only in the mid-'60s when the black Lincoln High School was closed and a new Chapel Hill High School was built north of town (to which most children of both races had to be bused). The previous white high school was located downtown and was replaced by Granville Towers and University Square. For that matter, UNC was still almost all white, with only a token number of black undergrads and grad students. Town protest activities drew from the local African-American community at least as much as it did from the predominantly white UNC student body and junior faculty.

Some time in the '60s, I took over the Sociology course that focused on race relations. It had been established by Professor Guy Johnson, who had worked with Gunnar Myrdal on what was considered the classic book on race in America, "An American Dilemma." I soon changed the name of the course from "The Negro" to "Black-White Relations" and told my students that more accurately it should be named "Brown-Pink Relations." The small number of African-American students at that time organized a chapter of the NAACP and invited me to be their faculty advisor. I happily accepted. Not too many years later the organization was replaced by the Black Student Movement (BSM) with other faculty sponsorship.

By the end of the '60s decade a happy development in Chapel Hill was the election of Howard Lee as the first black mayor of a predominantly white city in the South. But racial turmoil exploded again over the discriminatory treatment of mainly black cafeteria workers on campus. This led to a strike by the workers supported by a broad segment of the campus community. It is evident that some junior faculty did not get tenure because of their activity in support of the workers.

The '70s were not an easy period for the University Administration, which was slow to respond to both demands from the BSM for more recruitment of black students and faculty and for inclusion of African American Studies as an academic discipline. The widespread anti-Vietnam-war movement that was sweeping the country was another overlapping factor that made the '70s an often tense period on campus and in the town worthy of its own collection of reminiscences for the Town archives.

RICHARD CRAMER, RETIRED SOCIOLOGIST

Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force  
**APPENDIX E: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FLYER**

# What do you remember?



Share your experiences with us. Tell us your stories.

We want to hear from people who lived in Chapel Hill during the 1960s.  
From participants in the Civil Rights Movement. From historians.  
From invested community members.

### ONLINE

Fill out our online form. You can fill it out as many times as you like.

[chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights)

### BY PHONE

Share your thoughts on important PEOPLE, PLACES, and EVENTS of Chapel Hill's Civil Rights movement.

Record a voicemail message: (919) 642-3629

### IN PERSON

We can record your memories and experiences in person.

Contact Molly: 919-969-2028  
[mluby@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mluby@townofchapelhill.org)

## Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Town of Chapel Hill Task Force

Want to know more? Contact Molly Luby, Town of Chapel Hill Task Force liaison:  
919-969-2028 [mluby@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mluby@townofchapelhill.org)



[chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights)





# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force

## APPENDIX F: VISUAL TIMELINE PROTOTYPE

### "RIOT" AT CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL

From SOHP interview with Walter Durham. "Durham describes the actual "riot" at Chapel Hill High School in 1968. Durham, along with several of his classmates, used chains to lock down the school. Durham says that what they sought with this demonstration was to have more of a voice at Chapel Hill High School. He again emphasizes the family atmosphere that had characterized Lincoln High School and indicates that they hoped to regenerate a similar feeling at Chapel Hill High School by drawing attention to the fact that they wanted to be included."

### SEPTEMBER 1

Albert Williams, among the youngest of the original Lincoln High School demonstrators, is hired as the first African American firefighter for the Town of Chapel Hill.

### 1968 - 1969

Ongoing protests at Chapel Hill High School. Student body voted to change the name of their mascot to the Tigers, the former Lincoln High School mascot.



## 1968

## 1969

### ELECTION OF HOWARD LEE

Lee became the first African American elected mayor in a predominantly white southern town since Reconstruction. Lee went on to win his next two mayoral elections by large margins. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1972 and Lieutenant Governor in 1976. He was elected to the North Carolina state senate, serving there from 1990 to 1994 and again from 1996 to 2002. In 2003, Lee became the first African American elected by the North Carolina Board of Education to be its chair.



## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force



**SPRING '63: UNC STUDENTS JOIN MOVEMENT**  
 Pat Cusick, a white student at UNC, organizes a local chapter of the Student Peace Union (SPU). Harold Foster becomes early member. SPU joins the boycott of local businesses with segregationist policies.  
 UNC NAACP & SPU picket the College Cafe on Franklin Street.



**GROWING MOVEMENT**  
 Community activist meeting at St. Joseph's CME Center. Chapel Hill Committee for Open Business (COB). Includes Pat Cusick, Harold Foster, John Dunne, Quinton Baker and advisor Reverend Charlie Jones.  
 First march held by COB from St. Joseph's to the College Cafe. From John Ehle's 'The Free Men': "350 citizens of the town, about half of them white and half of them colored, began what was perhaps the first fully integrated public march in support of integration that the South had seen."



**SUMMER '63: PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS VOTE #1**  
 First vote from the Board of Alderman on the public accommodations ordinance to end all segregation in area businesses does not pass. COB announces series of mass civil disobedience workshops.



**COMMUNITY RESPONSE**  
 400-500 people march in biggest community protest to date.



**FALL**  
 All school transfers are allowed and school district lines are redrawn to assign equal percentages of black and white students to schools.

Karen Parker becomes the first black woman undergraduate at UNC when she transfer from Greensboro.



**WINTER**  
 Chapel Hill Freedom Committee forms. John Dunne chair, Quinton Baker vice chair. Sit-ins at local restaurants become a regular occurrence.



# 1963

## VIOLENT BACKLASH

Quinton Baker, along with other protesters, doused with Clorox and ammonia at a protests at the Rock Pile. He was taken to the hospital with first-degree burns and had his stomach pumped.  
 More violence at Watts Motel demonstrations.



## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

34 protesters, black and white are arrested at the Merchants Association's headquarters on Franklin St in the first mass civil disobedience demonstration



## FREEDOM FOR CHRISTMAS

Approximately 200 arrests after protests, including Karen Parker who was part of a group protesting at Leo's restaurant. Of note: demonstrators never agreed to press charges against any perpetrators of the violence.

From John Ehle, "it was a unique aspect of the Chapel Hill movement that this was against policy."





## BEFORE THE VOTE

"Freedom walk" from Durham to Chapel Hill. James Farmer of CORE speaks, urging the Chapel Hill Board of Alderman to pass the public accommodations ordinance.



Chapel Hill Board of Alderman reject local public accommodations law for a second time. 38 protesters begin sit-in in the courtroom in Town Hall (now Historic Town Hall), with others blocking the front door. Some protesters remain for several days. James Farmer issues ultimatum: "if Chapel Hill is not desegregated by February 1, all the resources of the national office of CORE will be focused on the city."



## AFTER THE VOTE

350 meet at St. Joseph CME and march to Town Hall for a rally which leads to the largest demonstration on one day. 42 demonstrators are arrested.

## HOLY WEEK FAST



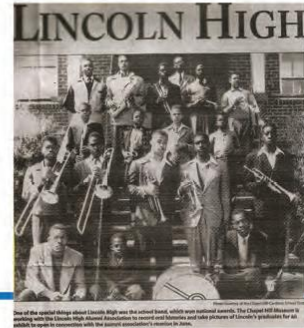
8-day "Holy Week" fast is held on the post office steps to protest the nearly 30 segregated business in Chapel Hill. The fast is covered in The New York Times every day. The Ku Klux Klan holds a rally of about 700 people at the town's edge on the seventh day.

1964



## KAREN PARKER

Karen Parker, the first African American woman undergraduate at UNC and active member of the movement, graduates with a degree in journalism.



One of the earliest things about Lincoln High was its school band, which was national renown. The Chapel Hill Board of Education was the Lincoln High School Association to cancel and burn and other pictures of Lincoln's problems for all students to learn to communicate with the principal and board members in time.

1965

1966

## LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Lincoln High School closes. All students attend the newly constructed integrated Chapel Hill High School. Black students are forced to give up their school name, their mascot, their principal, their coach, and their school trophies.



1964 Civil Rights Act passed by Congress. Black members of the community test civil rights law by visiting formerly segregated eateries. Denial of service and attacks at two eateries: Watts Grill and Clarence's Bar & Grill

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# WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force