

*Town of Chapel Hill*

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, today we celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest civil rights organization; and

**WHEREAS**, with approximately 500,000 members and 2,200 branches, the NAACP is the nation's largest is 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 Till, 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

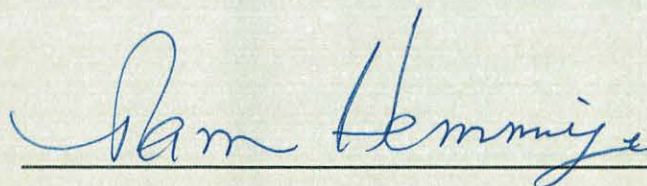
**WHEREAS**, the stated mission of the NAACP is "to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons;" a mission that the Chapel Hill Town Council fully endorses, consistent with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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we the Chapel Hill Town Council do hereby proclaim April 24, 2019 to be

## NAACP APPRECIATION DAY

in Chapel Hill to encourage appreciation and recognition for the powerful work that this organization has been doing for over a century.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.**

  
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