

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on July 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., at Court Square – corner of Park Street and East Jefferson Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, on the grounds of the Albemarle County Courthouse. This meeting was adjourned from July 10, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to allow a quorum of the Board to attend the Installation of the Equal Justice Initiative Historic Marker.

PRESENT: Mr. Norman G. Dill, Ms. Ann Mallek, Ms. Diantha H. McKeel, Ms. Liz A. Palmer and Mr. Rick Randolph.

ABSENT: Mr. Ned Gallaway.

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m., by the Vice Chair, Mr. Randolph.

Supervisor Diantha McKeel made the following remarks:

“Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us today.

Some say, the deeper sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain; said another way, the same well from which we draw laughter is often filled with tears.

Today marks a moment in which we draw our joy from the sorrow of our past.

Our shared sorrow is not limited to the brutality of the murder of Mr. John Henry James. As we gather on this historic ground where our community has for centuries sought justice under the law, we must confront its absence on this day 121 years ago.

We are joyful today. After a year long journey of community remembrance, we gather here united in our commitment to the shared responsibility of collective memory and the possibility of restoration when we remember together.

Ida B Wells, co-founder of the NAACP, journalist, educator and truth seeker, famously said, "the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them". With our Albemarle-Charlottesville Community Remembrance Project we have, with intention, with courage, and with compassion, turned the light of truth onto our own history.

The right of Mr. James to an impartial and equitable administration of the law was not overlooked. It was deliberately denied--an example of institutional and governmental complicity in maintaining the hierarchy of human value we know as white supremacy.

Today, we take our shared sorrow, and as Ms. Wells directed, we shine the light of truth, and in so doing we are united around a shared vision of a future community, a beloved community, committed to repair, bonded in love, in resilience, and in joy.”

After the unveiling of the Equal Justice Initiative Historic Marker commemorating Mr. John Henry James, Mr. Randolph adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Chairman

Approved by Board
Date 10/21/2020
Initials CKB