

Legistar ID No.: 2021-0612

## AGENDA REQUEST FORM

**FOR: Council Meeting of August 17, 2021**

**FROM: Council Member D'Andre Jones**


**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:**

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL BLACK STRUCTURES AND CEMETERIES AND TO CREATE BLACK HISTORICAL MARKERS IN FAYETTEVILL

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**

Approved by email.  
Council Member D'Andre Jones

8/4/21  
Date

  
City Attorney Kit Williams  
Approved as to form

August 4, 2021  
Date

## Pennington, Blake

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**From:** D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Williams, Kit  
**Cc:** Pennington, Blake  
**Subject:** Re: Resolution preserving Fayetteville Black History

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Kit I approve of the wording

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 4, 2021, at 12:55 PM, Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov> wrote:

D'Andre,

Please either sign this agenda request or just reply to this email that I can note on the request that you have approved it. Then I can get it on the agenda at 2:30 today.

Kit

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**From:** D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 03, 2021 3:22 PM  
**To:** Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Resolution preserving Fayetteville Black History

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Thanks Kit this is perfect!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2021, at 3:20 PM, Williams, Kit <[kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov](mailto:kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov)> wrote:

D'Andre,

The State law governing Historic Districts in Arkansas does not allow the type of subcommittee you suggest. However, I have prepared a Resolution for your consideration which would create a Commission To Preserve Black Historical Structures and Cemeteries and To Create Black Historical Markers. This would have to be an **advisory** commission just like all the other volunteer citizen committees, but it could make recommendations to the City Council about possible preservation efforts and historical markers. The City Council would continue to be the only entity that could

actually approve expenditures of revenue. All state revenue laws and regulations would also have to be obeyed.

Kit

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**From:** D'Andre Jones <[dre91732000@gmail.com](mailto:dre91732000@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:01 PM  
**To:** Williams, Kit <[kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov](mailto:kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov)>  
**Subject:** Resolution preserving Fayetteville Black History

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The first half of the 20th century shaped Black Americans' identity and influence on the United States. In reaction to racist actions and laws in that period, Black neighborhoods provided a sense of belonging, serving as space not only to garner wealth but also to celebrate Black culture in a unique and authentic way. During this time, a Black cultural identity began to emerge, but Black Americans were still significantly affected by key events such as Jim Crow, segregation and desegregation, and the assassinations of key Civil Rights leaders. These events impacted individual livelihoods and the fate of these neighborhoods.

Many of these communities disintegrated because of factors such as gentrification and outright racism, while others continue to rebuild and evolve. However, the history of these neighborhoods has often been hidden and not fully recognized. As a way of honoring Black excellence and their full rich history, the National Trust is exploring nine "Black Wall Streets" across the country where African American businesses districts flourished and served as examples of Black economic self-empowerment.

Fayetteville, Arkansas is no different. Therefore, I am proposing a resolution to preserve black history throughout the city. The proposal will also include establishing a historic black historic district committee comprised of black native Fayetteville residents. This will be a subcommittee of the Fayetteville Historic District and will be appointed by Mayor Jordan. This subcommittee will continue to preserve the rich and forgotten black history with city support including identifying the proper location to place markers highlighting historic streets including the Holler and Tin Cup. The resolution is also asking for special consideration concerning adding an African American native to the Fayetteville Historic

Commission. A reunion for native African American Fayetteville residents will be held Labor Day weekend in Walker Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping the city council passes the resolution and Mayor Jordan signs it at the inaugural reunion event. Eventually, the Historic Black District of Fayetteville will be identified on the state and national historic registries, and National Trust for Historic Preservation as we work with Mary McGetrick and staff.

Fayetteville will join

**Greenwood/Black Wall Street—Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**Hayti District—Durham, North Carolina**

**Harlem—New York, New York**

**U Street—Washington, D.C.**

**Tenth Street Historic District—Dallas, Texas**

**The Fourth Avenue District—Birmingham, Alabama**

**Jackson Ward—Richmond, Virginia**

**Seventh Street—West Oakland, California**

**Sweet Auburn Historic District—Atlanta, GA**

Best Regards,

D'Andre L. Jones - MSW, MA  
Fayetteville City Council  
Ward 1 Position 2

*“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

<Resolution to establish the commission to preserve black buildings and cemeteries.docx>

<Agenda Request for D'Andre Jones black history comm.docx>

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL BLACK STRUCTURES AND CEMETERIES AND TO CREATE BLACK HISTORICAL MARKERS IN FAYETTEVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, Black families have lived and worked in Fayetteville for over a century and a half; and

**WHEREAS**, although Fayetteville’s black population has historically been a small percentage of Fayetteville’s total population, the vision and activism of those Black families and individuals have, in concert with White allies, created and fostered progressive ideals of racial harmony, integration, and equality long before many other Southern cities; and

**WHEREAS**, as soon as the United State Supreme Court struck down Arkansas’s mandatory segregation laws, the Fayetteville School Board working with our Black community became the first large School District in Arkansas to rapidly begin integrating our public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fayetteville also began to rapidly integrate its public facilities including all city parks, the city pool, and other facilities without the racist backlash suffered by many other Southern cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the struggle for equality by Fayetteville’s Black citizens should be memorialized and its accomplishments recognized by historical markers and important Black structures and cemeteries should be preserved as the history of the vital foundation for the welcoming and diverse community that we have now become.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby establishes the Commission To Preserve Historical Black Structures and Cemeteries and To Create Black Historical Markers to recognize the struggles and achievements of our Black citizens to promote diversity and equality and to oppose discrimination against any person in Fayetteville.

Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby determines that this Commission should work in collaboration with the Fayetteville Historic District Commission, the Washington County Historical Society, and the Washington County Remembrance Project and provide guidance and recommendations to the City Council concerning possible street name changes.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**KARA PAXTON, City Clerk/Treasurer**