



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Vice Chair

Montgomery County's Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation urges you and your committee colleagues to vote in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 3, which calls on the State of Maryland to apologize for its role in racial terror lynchings across the state.

At least three lynchings – acts of racial terror – were perpetrated in Montgomery County, Md., against Mr. George W. Peck on January 10, 1880; Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey on July 24, 1880; and Mr. Sidney Randolph on July 4, 1896. This traumatic violence, coupled with a long and persistent pattern of racial discrimination across the County and throughout the State of Maryland, created an environment where African Americans were treated as inferior citizens.

Before the Civil War, the County had long been home to thousands of enslaved individuals, and its economy benefited from the exploitation of their labor. Following emancipation, segregation was enforced in schools, public facilities, and housing. Covenants and zoning plans were adopted to separate African Americans and White people, while unequal and inferior public services were provided to African American neighborhoods and residents.

That history, even from the County's most distant past, created inequalities and disparities that still appear in Montgomery County's social, economic and political landscape today.

Montgomery County's Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation, created in 2019 by the County Council and still managed by the County Government, has a mandate to promote better recognition and understanding of that complex history – principally through public commemoration of the lives and murders of Mr. Peck, Mr. Diggs-Dorsey and Mr. Randolph. Also, drawing on these lessons, the Commission encourages a variety of reconciliation activities enabling County residents to build a better future.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Commission therefore strongly urges the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 3, which apologizes for Maryland's role in racial terror lynchings. Such an apology is an essential first step in any effort to transcend the unfortunate legacy we have inherited from those who came before us, and enables us and those who come after, to shape a new and better path forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Montgomery County's Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation
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