



Maryland Lynching Memorial Project

722 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 385
Towson, MD 21204
www.mdlynchingmemorial.org/
amilllin@mdlynchingmemorial.org

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Dear Senator Brian J. Sydnor and Distinguished Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project (MLMP) emphatically supports the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 3, sponsored by Senators Sydnor and Augustine to approve a bill to issue an apology and acknowledge the State's complicity and negligence in allowing the perpetration of acts of racial terror lynching; and for committing to taking reparative actions as recommended by the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission in their final report, dated December 2025.

On a wall at Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reads: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." The State of Maryland took a significant step in holding itself accountable when it passed HB307 in 2019 to establish the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC). The MLTRC was tasked with investigating documented cases of racial terror lynching in Maryland from 1854 to 1933, to hold public hearings in communities where racial terror lynchings occurred, and—importantly—to provide recommendations for reparations for the lasting impacts of these heinous crimes on the families and communities of the victims. These are all steps towards justice.

The MLMP played a significant role in establishing the MLTRC, and several members of its leadership have served as staff to the Commission and/or continue to serve as members of the Commission. It is appropriate—and long overdue—that the State acknowledge its role in the murder of each victim in the 38 cases of documented racial terror lynchings, any additional racial terror lynchings that have yet to be discovered, and any attempted racial terror lynchings.

Of the 38 known murders that were committed, two of the victims were children—just 13 and 15 years old. No one has been held accountable for their or the other 36 deaths. They, their families, and their communities have yet to receive an apology. The vigilantism made a mockery of the legal system, destroying communities and subsequent generations. The aftermath of the documented, attempted, and unknown racial terror lynchings remains today. This is why we must begin with an apology and an acknowledgement of past wrongs.

Upon the sunseting of the MLTRC, the MLMP remains committed to furthering the work as repair and reconciliation have yet to be accomplished. The MLMP will continue to research and document the history of such crime in the state; to advocate for public acknowledgement of these murders; and to honor and dignify the lives of the victims. An apology by the State of Maryland for its role in these murders, coupled with a commitment to taking reparative actions—including the prevention of the recurrence of racially motivated harms—are important steps towards justice as alluded to by Dr. King.

As such, the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project is in steadfast support of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations. You now have the opportunity to take an important and historic step towards acknowledging the State's role. We strongly urge you to support the passage of this resolution.

On behalf of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy S. Millin
President



Dr. Terry Anne Scott.
Vice President