

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2024-05

CREATING THE BEYOND APOLOGY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City of Tulsa and its community partners must continue to build upon previous efforts to understand the crippling individual and societal harms caused by the 1921 Race Massacre and other historic inequalities; continually and intentionally act to reconcile, restore, and unite the community; and, collectively with the community, determine how to overcome these challenges together as Tulsans; and

WHEREAS, the 1921 Race Massacre occurred in the historic Greenwood District and had lasting impacts on the historic Greenwood District and surrounding neighborhoods, including those whose boundaries have been identified in various sector plans, master plans, and the equality indicator reports; and

WHEREAS, the Beyond Apology Report recommends “that the City of Tulsa establish a government sanctioned task-force or commission to establish and implement the terms of a reparations program”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tulsa’s Equality Indicators show a persistent disparity between residents of North Tulsa and other parts of Tulsa across a range of economic and social outcomes. For example:

- The percentage of South Tulsans in households earning a living wage is 72% higher than that of North Tulsans.
- The ratio of banks and credit unions to payday lending businesses is 9 times higher in South Tulsa than in North Tulsa.
- South Tulsa residents live 2.5 times longer after retirement age than North Tulsa residents.
- The share of residents of North Tulsa living in a food desert is 5 times the share of residents of South Tulsa.
- The housing vacancy rate in North Tulsa is twice that of South Tulsa; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Office of Resilience and Equity was established to advance programs, policies, practice changes and events to build a more equitable, resilient Tulsa and to address racial equity which was identified through a community-wide process as Tulsa’s core resilience challenge; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tulsa has invested in services and programs that are foundational to further the work of reconciling, restoring and uniting, in the areas of economic development, housing, mental health, financial empowerment, civic engagement, inclusion and welcoming, dialogues, and much more; and

WHEREAS, with regard to economic opportunity, which is a pillar of our City's resilience efforts, the establishment of a Financial Empowerment Center and the Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth is a tool available to decrease disparities in financial outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Beyond Apology Commission is the next necessary step toward reconciling, restoring, and uniting Tulsa in a goal of shared prosperity for all Tulsans by advancing and restoring economic mobility, prosperity, and intergenerational wealth for the 1921 Race Massacre survivors, their descendants, and residents of North Tulsa, in particular the historic Greenwood District and surrounding neighborhoods.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, it is hereby ordered:

SECTION 1. CREATION. There is hereby created the Beyond Apology Commission for the City of Tulsa.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the Commission shall be to reconcile, restore, and unite Tulsa in a goal of shared prosperity for all Tulsans by advancing and restoring economic mobility, prosperity, and intergenerational wealth for the 1921 Race Massacre survivors, their descendants, and residents of North Tulsa, in particular the historic Greenwood District and surrounding neighborhoods.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP. The Beyond Apology Commission shall consist of thirteen (13) individuals appointed by the Mayor. One (1) appointee shall be a designee of the Mayor. One (1) appointee shall be the City Councilor representing the historic Greenwood District or their designee. The other eleven (11) appointees shall be nominated through an application process facilitated by a working group described in Section 4. Membership of the Commission shall consist of the following:

- 1) Mayor or their designee
- 2) City Councilor representing the historic Greenwood District or their designee
- 3) Youth (18-24 Years Old),
- 4) Elder (60 Years and Older)
- 5) 1921 Race Massacre Descendant,
- 6) North Tulsa Community Leader,
- 7) Policy and Legislative Expert,
- 8) Housing Equity Expert,
- 9) Health Equity Expert,
- 10) At Large,
- 11) At Large,
- 12) At Large, and
- 13) At Large.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION PROCESS. Eleven appointees to the Commission shall be nominated through an application process facilitated by a working group of City staff designated by the Mayor. This working group shall also include City Council representatives, and community members, who will nominate the 11 Commission appointees to the Mayor to fill positions 3 through 13 in Section 3.

SECTION 5. TERMS. The terms of the initial thirteen (13) members of the Commission shall be calculated as beginning on and from July 1, 2024, regardless of their date of appointment and confirmation. The Mayor and City Council designees shall serve *ex officio*, until replaced by a subsequent appointment. The Youth, Elder, 1921 Race Massacre Descendant, and Policy and Legislative Expert members shall serve an initial three-year term. The North Tulsa Community Leader, Housing Equity Expert, and Health Equity Expert members shall serve an initial two-year term. The At-Large members shall serve an initial one-year term. After initial terms, all members except for *ex officio* members shall serve three-year terms. Unless an appointment is created by a vacancy, appointees shall serve until their successors have been confirmed.

SECTION 6. DUTIES.

- A. The Commission shall review the City of Tulsa's Equality Indicators Report, as updated annually, the Beyond Apology Report, and the 2001 Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, as foundational documents informing the Commission's work.
- B. The Commission shall engage in planning processes to annually set priorities and objectives for accomplishing the purpose of the commission by January of each year. An annual report on Commission activities, accomplishments, and recommendations shall be submitted to the Mayor by January 30th of each year.
- C. The Commission shall engage experts and stakeholder groups in the work of the commission to further the aims of educating, uniting, and reconciling our community, providing regular updates on the work of the commission.
- D. The Commission shall engage in research, data collection, interviews and other information gathering activities to inform the work, including referencing existing documents related to historic Greenwood District and surrounding North Tulsa neighborhoods, such as sector plans, master plans, etc.
- E. The Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the conduct of its meetings.
- F. By November 30, 2024, the Commission will produce a recommendation and implementation plan for a housing equity program, to include homeownership, to advance the goal of creating intergenerational wealth among Race Massacre survivors, their descendants, and residents of North Tulsa.

SECTION 7. CITY RESOURCES AND STAFFING. The facilities of the municipal government shall be made available to the Commission; and city officers, personnel, and agencies shall cooperate with the Commission in accomplishing the purposes and duties set forth herein. The Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity and the Legal Department shall facilitate the work of the Commission and provide staff support.

SECTION 8. This Executive Order supersedes all conflicting executive orders.

SECTION 9. This Executive Order shall take effect on the 24th day of July, 2024.



G. T. Bynum, Mayor

JUL 24 2024

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGALITY:

ATTEST:



City Attorney



City Clerk

