



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WE REMEMBER NASHVILLE HONORS VICTIMS OF RACIAL TERROR LYNCHINGS

May 13, 2019

NASHVILLE, TN — The Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Community Remembrance Project Coalition (We Remember Nashville), in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, is pleased to announce the first phase of a public memory project to honor victims of racial terror lynchings. During its “Week of Remembrance” from Wednesday, June 19, 2019 to Sunday, June 23, 2019, We Remember Nashville will install two historical markers in downtown Nashville. The first marker is named for Henry Grizzard and Ephraim Grizzard, brothers who were violently hanged and killed by white residents of Davidson and Sumner counties on April 24 and April 30, 1892. The second marker is named for David Jones and Jo Reed, victims of pre-1877 racial terror lynching. Over 200 documented lynchings took place in Tennessee alone between 1877 and 1950, with at least four having occurred in Davidson County.

Ceremonies dedicating the two markers will take place on Wednesday, June 19 at 12:00pm at the Woodland Street Bridge and 1:00pm at 1st Avenue North. Speakers and special guests include We Remember Nashville founder Brittany T. Paschall, an official from the Office of the Mayor, and representatives from the Equal Justice Initiative and Metropolitan Historical Commission. An interfaith service of lament and celebration, educational forum, and Juneteenth community gathering will round out the week. A complete schedule of events is available online at www.weremembernashville.org.

Jessica Reeves, a staff member at the Metropolitan Historical Commission and We Remember Nashville research committee chair notes, “The Metropolitan Historical Commission is honored to work with We Remember Nashville to tell a more complete story about the history of Nashville and Davidson County. We hope that these historical markers will become sites of remembrance and healing, and a testimony to Nashville’s resolve to confront racial inequality.”

Regarding the significance of public memory, Paschall explains, “It is time we tell the truth about the legacy of racial terror and racial lynchings in our country and in our city. And it is time to affirm the dignity of these stolen lives and of the African American community as a whole, as we seek to forge ahead amidst modern day occurrences of racial terror. We invite the entire Nashville community to join in this work with us during our inaugural Week of Remembrance and beyond.”

About We Remember Nashville:

The Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Community Remembrance Project Coalition (“We Remember Nashville”) exists to promote community awareness, education, and public reckoning around racial terror in Nashville (Davidson County), TN through partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative and local stakeholders. For more information, visit WeRememberNashville.org.