

CURRENT AND FORMER AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS
ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF OUR 400 YEARS

WHEREAS, the first documentation of the arrival of Africans to the Virginia Colony was recorded by John Rolfe wherein he stated: "*About the latter end of August, a Dutch man of Warr of the burden of a 160 tunes arrived at Point-Comfort, the Comandors name Capt Jope, his Pilott for the West Indies one Mr Marmaduke an Englishman. ... He brought not any thing but 20. and odd Negroes, w^[hich] the Governo^[r] and Cape Merchant bought for victuall^[s]*"; and

WHEREAS, thus, on August 20th, 1619, twenty or so Angolans, having been kidnapped from their homeland, shackled and transported across the Atlantic Ocean, disembarked a corsair, the White Lion, at Port Comfort—today known as Hampton, Virginia—in the Virginia Colony as enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, this point in history essentially marks the beginning of the American slave trade and the American slave system, which became one of the most brutal and heinous economic institutions known to humankind; and

WHEREAS, August 2019 marked the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans to the shores of the New World that is now the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, for four centuries, Black African and African American people have withstood persecution, oppression, prejudice, discrimination and racialized terror while laboring in the cotton fields, rice paddies, tobacco fields, plantation houses and steel factories; and

WHEREAS, our story is filled with tears and anguish from intense suffering and sacrifice; yet and still, our story is one abounding in faith, hope and peace for all humankind;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the current and former African American elected leaders in the Orange County, North Carolina, being descendants of enslaved and free Black Africans and African Americans, have a legacy that we shall uphold and a heritage that we shall honor; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the African American elected officials in Orange County, do hereby pledge to continue the fight for civil rights and human rights that began 400 years ago, despite resistance, violence, and discriminatory legislation or court decision; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the current and former African American elected officials, shall endeavor to disrupt the intergenerational cycles of poverty, marginalization and disenfranchisement that disproportionately have affected African Americans, resulting in the denial of opportunities for educational, economic and political advancement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the daughters and sons of Black Africa, pledge to break the chains and handcuffs of bondage by working to reform the criminal justice system that traditionally has targeted people of color unfairly and unjustly; and

BE IT MOREOVER RESOLVED, that we, the current and former African American elected officials in the Orange County, North Carolina community, as we pay tribute to our ancestors and to our posterity, pledge to sustain the fight for freedom, equality and justice, as we go forward into the next 400 years.

This, the 19th day of June 2020.

Signed:

Joal H. Broun

Allen Buansi

Rani Dasi

Barbara M. Foushee

Valerie P. Foushee

Carl R. Fox

Matthew Hughes

Tony McKnight

Renée A. Price

Beverly Scarlett

Brenda Stephens

Deon Temne

Former African American Elected Officials

Donna Bell	Deborah Brooks	Lavonda Burnette	Hilliard Caldwell
Moses Carey	Elizabeth Carter	Kenneth Chavious	Keith Cook
Bob Drakeford	Jean Hamilton	Frances Dancy-Burton	Eddie Eubanks
Braxton Foushee	Joe Green	Horace Johnson	Michelle Johnson
Howard Lee	Brian Lowen	James Merritt	Greg McElveen
Ted Parrish	Mark Royster	Ruth Royster	Lawrence Sanders
Ed Secrest	Delores Simpson	Richard Simpson	Edith Wiggins
Teresa Williams	Annetta Streater		

In Memoriam

Henry Anderson III	Frederick Battle	Barbara Booth Powell	Edwin Caldwell
Wilson Swain Caldwell	Rev. J.R. Manley	Hubert Robinson	R.D. Smith
Bill Thorpe	Roosevelt Warner	Richard E. Whitted	Roosevelt Wilkerson
Rosa Williams	B. Willis Wilson		