



CITY of CHARLOTTE

MAYOR VI LYLES

Office of the Mayor
600 East 4th Street, 15th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202
charlottenc.gov

December 12, 2022

Equal Justice Initiative
122 Commerce Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36014

The City of Charlotte is proud to support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Remembrance Project (CMRP), a cross-sector coalition that formed in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) with the purpose of honoring victims of racial terror lynching and reflecting honestly on the history and legacy of racial injustice in our community. The CMRP aims to raise awareness and inspire action through dialogue, community education and public memorials.

The city is particularly supportive of and authorizes the CMRP steering committee to install a historical marker, on city-owned land, honoring Mr. Joe McNeely who was murdered in a racial terror lynching in 1913 by a white mob on Hill Street in front of Good Samaritan Hospital, which is now the site of Bank of America Stadium, home of the Carolina Panthers NFL team. The EJI marker will be paired with the existing Good Samaritan marker, and they will be located on the east side of the walkway as depicted in the attached rendering.

The work of the CMRP aligns with The Legacy Commission, a city initiative that believes the continued memorialization of slave owners, Confederate leaders, and white supremacists on street signs does not reflect the values that Charlotte upholds today and is a direct affront to descendants of the enslaved and oppressed African Americans who labored to build this city. To date, we have changed twelve street signs. East/West Hill Street was changed to Good Samaritan Way, honoring Good Samaritan Hospital, the first private hospital built in North Carolina to provide services to Charlotte's African American community. The hospital was razed in 1996 to make room for a new football stadium.

On May 21, 2021, soil was collected from inside the stadium in a somber ceremony to recognize and memorialize Mr. McNeely. The soil is permanently on exhibition at EJI's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

The City of Charlotte is proud to partner with the CMRP steering committee in this important community effort that tells the truth about our community's history of racial violence and injustice and support/build commemorative landscapes across our community.

Sincerely,

Vi Alexander Lyles
Mayor