

**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.