

A SUNDOWN TOWN APOLOGY AND RECONCILIATION PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PUBLICLY CONDEMNING AND APOLOGIZING FOR HISTORICAL SUNDOWN PRACTICES IN NORMAN AND RENEWING ITS COMMITMENT TO BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY FIRMLY DEDICATED TO INCLUSIVITY, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

- § 1. WHEREAS, although no official explicit sundown ordinances were passed, the historical record clearly shows that Norman effectively was a sundown town for 78 years, from April 22, 1889, to 1967, due to various extralegal, racist sundown practices; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, under these practices, African-American residents were unlawfully and racially cleansed after the Land Run of April 22, 1889, because of job competition, racism, and white supremacy; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, later periods witnessed mob violence, terror, threats, the freezing out of services such as restaurants and motels, and real-estate practices that resulted in the refusal of sale of real-estate and homes to African Americans; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, significant KKK activities sponsored by many influential men in Norman called for no African Americans residing, working, entertaining, or simply being in Norman after dark; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the record shows no African American residing within the city limits of Norman from 1889 to 1967; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the City of Norman expresses its revulsion and publicly condemns and apologizes for these events; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, the City of Norman is dedicated to honoring those individuals who were deprived of their basic human rights due to sundown practices; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, the City of Norman is dedicated to publicly updating the historical record related to the sundown events from 1889 to 1967 and publicly commemorating those individuals who fought and struggled for human rights during the 78 years when Norman was a sundown town; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, the City of Norman remains committed to building an inclusive community where all residents are welcomed, respected, and afforded equal



opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, or marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 10. THAT the City of Norman hereby expresses its revulsion and publicly condemns and apologizes for these historical extralegal sundown practices; and
- § 11. THAT Norman is no longer and never will again be a sundown town; and
- § 12. THAT the City of Norman hereby reaffirms its commitment to building an inclusive community firmly dedicated to inclusivity, equality, and justice for all residents.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of January, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk