Agenda Item #: 5I-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: June 14, 2022	[] Consent [] Ordinance	[X] Regular [] Public Hearing
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Department: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners recognizing the significance of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act and Soil Collection Ceremony for Sam Nelson.

Summary: The Federal Emmett Till Antilynching Act is named after 14-yearold Emmett Till, who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955, sparking national and international outrage. The Act makes lynching a Federal hate crime.

The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project Coalition (Coalition) will be holding a Soil Collection Ceremony for Mr. Sam Nelson on June 18, 2022 during the Juneteenth Event at Pompey Park in partnership with the County, the City of Delray Beach, and the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum. This event is part of the Coalition's education and community engagement work with an essay contest to follow later this year. Mr. Nelson was lynched in Palm Beach County on September 27, 1926 and no one was held accountable for his murder.

On August 17, 2021 the Board recognized Juneteenth as an official County Holiday. Countywide (LDC)

Background and Justification: The passage of U.S. House of Representatives Bill 55-Emmett Till Antilynching Act (H.R. 55) was more than a century in the making, with hundreds of previous bills proposed but failing to be passed and signed into law. H.R 55 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 28, 2022. The Senate passed the landmark bill through unanimous consent on March 7, 2022, and the bill was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 29, 2022.

Emmett Till Antilynching Act defines lynching as any conspired bias-motivated offense which results in death or serious bodily injury. More than 4,000 racial terrorism lynchings throughout the U.S. have been documented by the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Alabama, with two documented lynchings here in Palm Beach County, Mr. Sam Nelson and Mr. Henry Simmons. More information on the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project is available at www.pbcremembrance.org.

Attachments: 1.

Resolution Recognizing the Significance of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act and Soil Collection Ceremony for Sam Nelson

Recommended by: _____

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Assistant County Administrator

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Approved By:

County Administrator

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years				
Capital				
Expenditures				
Operating Costs				
External				
Revenues				
Program				
Income(County)				
In-Kind				
Match(County				
NET FISCAL				
IMPACT				
#ADDITIONAL				
FTE				
POSITIONS				
(CUMULATIVE	 		<u> </u>	
			1	

Is Item Included in Current Budget?	Yes	No
Does this item include the use of federal funds?	Yes	No

Budget Account No:FundAgencyOrganizationObject

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Din Indowitz 10/2 Mae: Fontract Dev. & Control -6.10:22 **OFMB**(*4*1+ MG 6/10/22 le-13-22 B. Legal Sufficiency Assistant County Att 'n С. Other Department Review

Department Director	
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(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EMMETT TILL ANTILYNCHING ACT AND SOIL COLLECTION CEREMONY FOR SAM NELSON.

WHEREAS, U.S. House of Representatives Bill 55 (H.R. 55) known as The Emmett Till Antilynching Act is named after 14-year-old Emmett Till, who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955, sparking national and international outrage. The Act makes lynching a Federal hate crime; and

WHEREAS, The passage of H.R. 55 was more than a century in the making, with hundreds of previous bills proposed but failing to be passed and signed into law; and

WHEREAS, H.R 55 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 28, 2022. The Senate passed the landmark bill through unanimous consent on March 7, 2022, and the bill was signed into law by President Biden on March 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act defines lynching as any conspired bias-motivated offense which results in death or serious bodily injury; and

WHEREAS, More than 4,000 racial terrorism lynchings throughout the U.S. have been documented by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) of Montgomery, Alabama, with two documented lynchings here in Palm Beach County, Mr. Sam Nelson and Mr. Henry Simmons; and

WHEREAS, On September 26, 1926, Sam Nelson was in the jail at Delray on a charge of attempted criminal assault of a white woman in Miami. The next morning, on September 27, 1926, the steel door of the jail was found battered open and the body of Sam Nelson was found riddled with bullets next to a canal west of Delray. A story in the Palm Beach Post includes a statement from the Miami police that they did not recall an assault case of this kind nor had they been informed of the lynching. No one was held accountable for the murder of Mr. Nelson; and

WHEREAS, The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project will be holding a Soil Collection Ceremony for Mr. Sam Nelson on June 18, 2022 during the Juneteenth Event at Pompey Park in partnership with the County, the City of Delray Beach, EJI, and the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum; and

WHEREAS, On August 17, 2021, The Board recognized Juneteenth as a formally observed County Holiday; and

WHEREAS, The conjunction of the signing of Emmett Till Antilynching Act and the soil collection for lynching victim Sam Nelson makes this a fitting time to recognize the grievous harm done by racial terror lynchings and the need to both educate and reconcile.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are true and correct and are made part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida hereby recognizes the significance of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act and the Soil Collection Ceremony for Sam Nelson.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner ______, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner ______, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

ROBERT S. WEINROTH, Mayor

GREGG K. WEISS, Vice Mayor

COMMISSIONER MARIA MARINO

COMMISSIONER DAVID KERNER

COMMISSIONER MARIA SACHS

COMMISSIONER MELISSA MCKINLAY

COMMISSIONER MACK BERNARD

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted on this

_____ day of _____, 2022.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Denise Coffmak

County Attorney

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOSEPH ABRUZZO, CLERK

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BY:

Deputy Clerk