# *Proclamation*

## NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

WHEREAS, the National Day of Racial Healing is an annual observance initiated as part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation program and promoted by the program's many community partners across the United States; and,

WHEREAS; fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity; and,

WHEREAS, this day is meant to raise awareness of the continuing need for racial healing and to transform societal structures to affirm the value of all people; and,

WHEREAS, we understand and recognize that we all must work earnestly and intentionally to build an equitable and just society in which all people can thrive and in which children have the opportunity to learn and grow in nurturing environments that protect their safety, dignity and humanity; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is committed to advancing racial equity which is demonstrated through some of our more recent actions which include:

- creating and implementing the Carrboro Family Financial Assistance Program using ARPA funds for residents with financial challenges resulting from the pandemic for housing utilities, childcare, internet and transportation from January – October 2024;
- partnering with Equal Justice Institute and Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition to unveil the historical marker honoring Manly McCauley, Victim of 1898 Lynching in February 2024;
- renaming Carr Street to Braxton Foushee Street March 2024;
- working with Griffin and Strong Consulting Firm this year to conduct a Disparity Study to inform changes to the Town's procurement policies to increase opportunities for minority- and women-owned business enterprises;
- evaluating Town of Carrboro practices, policies, procedures and services using a racial equity assessment lens;
- strengthening and developing community partnerships and opportunities in community;
- launching Boost Carrboro – a BIPOC Centered Entrepreneurship Training and Coaching Program;
- partnering with Empowerment Inc on BIPOC Pop-Up Events;
- adopting the Language Access Plan in April 2024 and partnering with UNC-Chapel Hill's Building Integrated Communities Initiative to strengthen communication and interpretation services for all residents;
- framing race and equity for professional services for the Downtown Areas Plan, Land Use Ordinance Rewrite and Safe Routes to School Update;
- hiring social worker assigned to the Community Care and Diversion Response team;
- launching Engage Carrboro to help coordinate equitable engagement efforts in September 2024;
- naming the new public building under construction the Drakeford Library Complex in honor of the first Black Carrboro Mayor;
- offering Green Neighborhood Program grants to community;
- serving as a voice on WCHL's Forum on the Hill Community Conversations – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our community. Community understanding, awareness and allyship matter; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Town's Youth Advisory Board, the Carrboro Youth Council, and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council will hold a special celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., the Carrboro Century Center; and,

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States and around the world acknowledge either the

Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day or the third Tuesday in January as "National Day of Racial Healing" as a way to promote relationship-building, truth telling, and racial equity; healing and solidarity; and transformative action.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 21, 2025, the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as "National Day of Racial Healing" in Carrboro and encourage all residents to share ideas, knowledge, and points of view related to truth, racial healing, transformation, and racial equity.

This the 21st day of January, 2025.

Barbara M. Foushee