

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:

- Named a 2025 All-America City, marking a historic achievement in the town's first year competing for this national recognition. The award honors the town's bold commitment to foundational pillars—race and equity and climate action—and its efforts to advance democracy through local action, community partnerships, and inclusive civic infrastructure: the network of relationships, partnerships, and capacities that drive effective decision-making and problem-solving.
- celebrating the grand opening of the Drakeford Library Complex in honor of the first Black Carrboro Mayor;
- unveiling of the honorary Strayhorn Drive;
- began implementation of the Disparity Study;
- framing race and equity for professional services for the Downtown Areas Plan, New United Development Ordinance (UDO) and Safe Routes to School Update;
- develop new partnerships, such as with the Center for Policing Equity to transform how public safety is understood, measured and delivered; sustain partnerships with the Marian Cheek Jackson Center, El Centro Hispano, and Habitat for Humanity; and strengthen relationships with St. Paul's AME Church, the Community School for People Under 6, and apartment communities in Carrboro to deepen engagement with historically marginalized communities;
- expanded social services capacity by hiring a second social worker to serve Carrboro-specific individuals in partnership with the CARE Team and the Chapel Hill Crisis Team.
- conducted the first community town hall focused on conversations about race and equity, climate sustainability, and other issues affecting local government.
- completed the replacement of Baldwin Park playground equipment to advance accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring equitable access to play for children of all abilities;
- offering Green Neighborhood Grants that bring neighbors together, particularly low-income households and residents of color—to implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more climate-resilient natural areas.
- serving as a voice on WCHL's Forum on the Hill Community Conversations – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series, promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, awareness and allyship;
- partnering with Building Integrating Communities, Orange County, Chapel Hill and local organizations on creating a plan to communicate with residents in community languages in preparation and response to local emergencies and disasters;
- encourages residents to learn and reflect on Carrboro's Black history and perform acts of service to their neighbors or the community on Braxton Dunkin Foushee Day of Service, each December 13th and,

WHEREAS, members of 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 17, 2026, 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 20, 2026, 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 20th day of January, 2026.


Barbara M. Foushee

