

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PROCLAMATION REMEMBERING THE 1898 MASSACRE AND COUP**

**WHEREAS**, one hundred twenty-three years ago, on November 8, 1898, after a lengthy state-wide white supremacy campaign, New Hanover County experienced a contested election, followed by a massacre and a coup d'état on November 10, 1898; and

**WHEREAS**, the massacre left an unknowable number of residents dead, with death toll estimates ranging from less than ten people to hundreds of people; and

**WHEREAS**, the coup replaced the local multiracial governmental bodies with white-only legislators; and

**WHEREAS**, this change in leadership led to the firing of African American city and county employees such as firefighters and police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, local white supremacist leaders' actions forced African Americans and whites out of the county in the wake of the massacre and coup; and

**WHEREAS**, these events left deep scars in the community, disenfranchised African American men, and helped spread legally sanctioned race-based segregation in New Hanover County, and the state of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, these events shaped the county's race relations in deleterious ways for generations; and


**WHEREAS**, the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners declares that providing accurate historical information about the massacre and coup is critical to the community's healing and moving forward.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners that the month of November will be recognized as a period of mourning, commemoration, and reflection for all members of this community. Residents are urged to learn the history of the 1898 massacre and coup, to mourn those whose lives were lost, to remember the resiliency of the African American community in the wake of the violence and to reflect on ways they can make this community a better place for all.

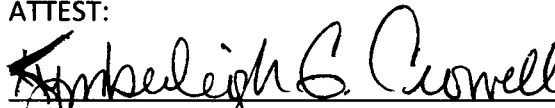
**ADOPTED** this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2021.



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

  
Julia Olson-Boseman, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Kimberleigh G. Crowell, Clerk to the Board

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, every child deserves the chance to grow up in a loving, stable family and adoption is a beautiful way to build a family. There are currently over 11,000 children in North Carolina that are in foster care and an estimated 1,500 children were adopted from foster care in 2020 in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption is the goal for many special needs children in foster care and there are an estimated 107,918 children nation-wide and an estimated 2,500 foster children in North Carolina waiting to be adopted annually; and

**WHEREAS**, some special needs children are teenagers, and some have physical, emotional and behavioral challenges. They are children of all races. Many have been neglected, abandoned, abused and/or exposed to drugs and alcohol. Others are brothers and sisters who want to grow up together. They need our care and they need security; and


**WHEREAS**, many children find permanent homes through adoption by their foster families or relatives, thereby creating an ongoing need for new foster and adoptive families. Thirty-eight children in New Hanover County found permanence through adoption this past fiscal year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners that November 2021 will be recognized as "Adoption Awareness Month" in New Hanover County. The Board thanks all adoptive mothers and adoptive fathers for their commitment to children. The Board also encourages this community to honor the special needs of New Hanover County's children in hopes of securing a permanent, loving family for each and every child regardless of race, age, gender, health, emotional or behavioral condition or past distress.

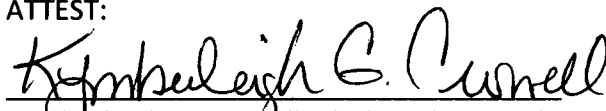
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Julia Olson-Boseman, Chair

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